

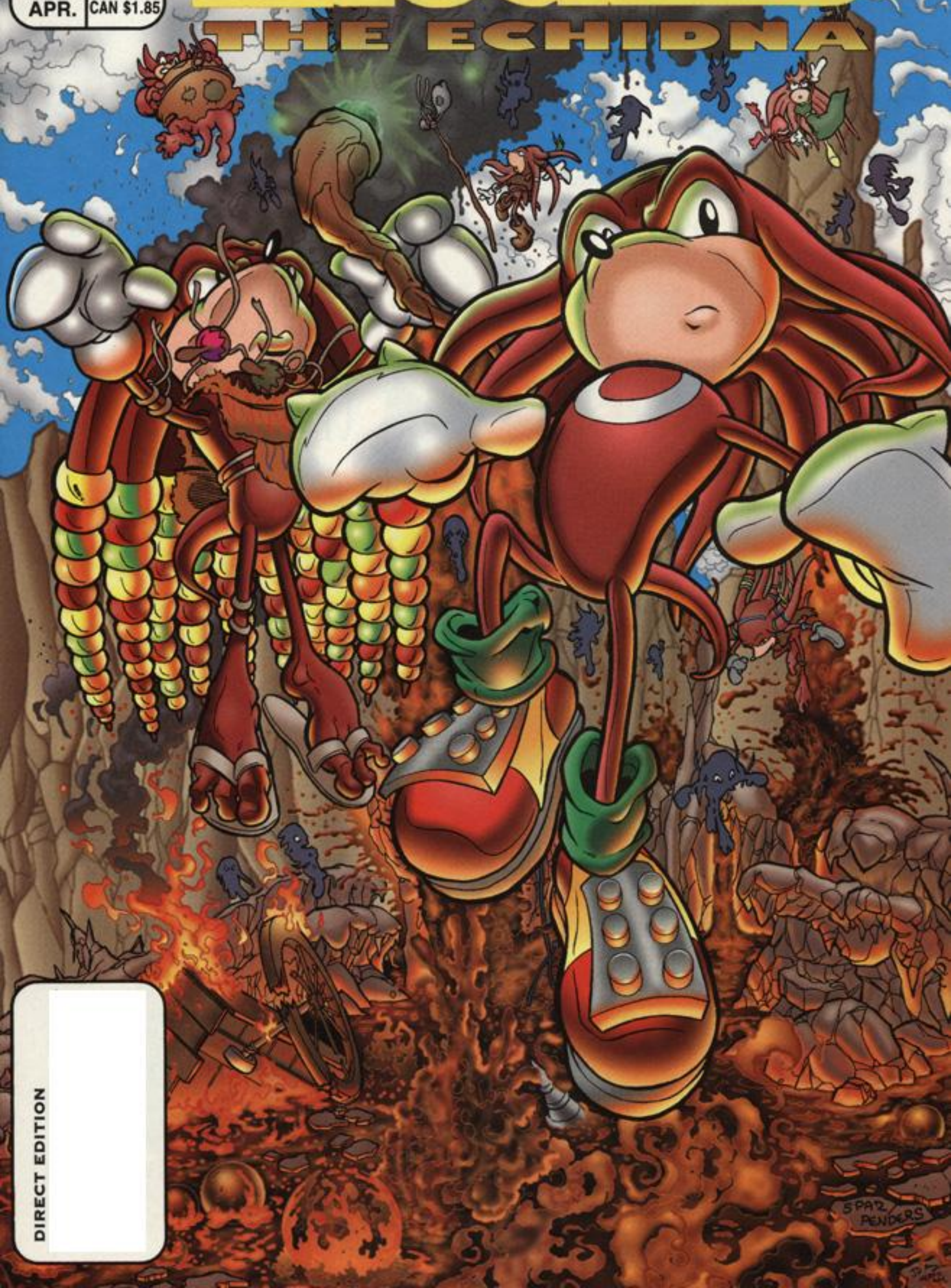
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KNUCKLES

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THE ECHIDNA



DIRECT EDITION

SPAZ
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KNUCKLES™

BOOK ELEVEN

The Forgotten Tribe

Part Two of Three

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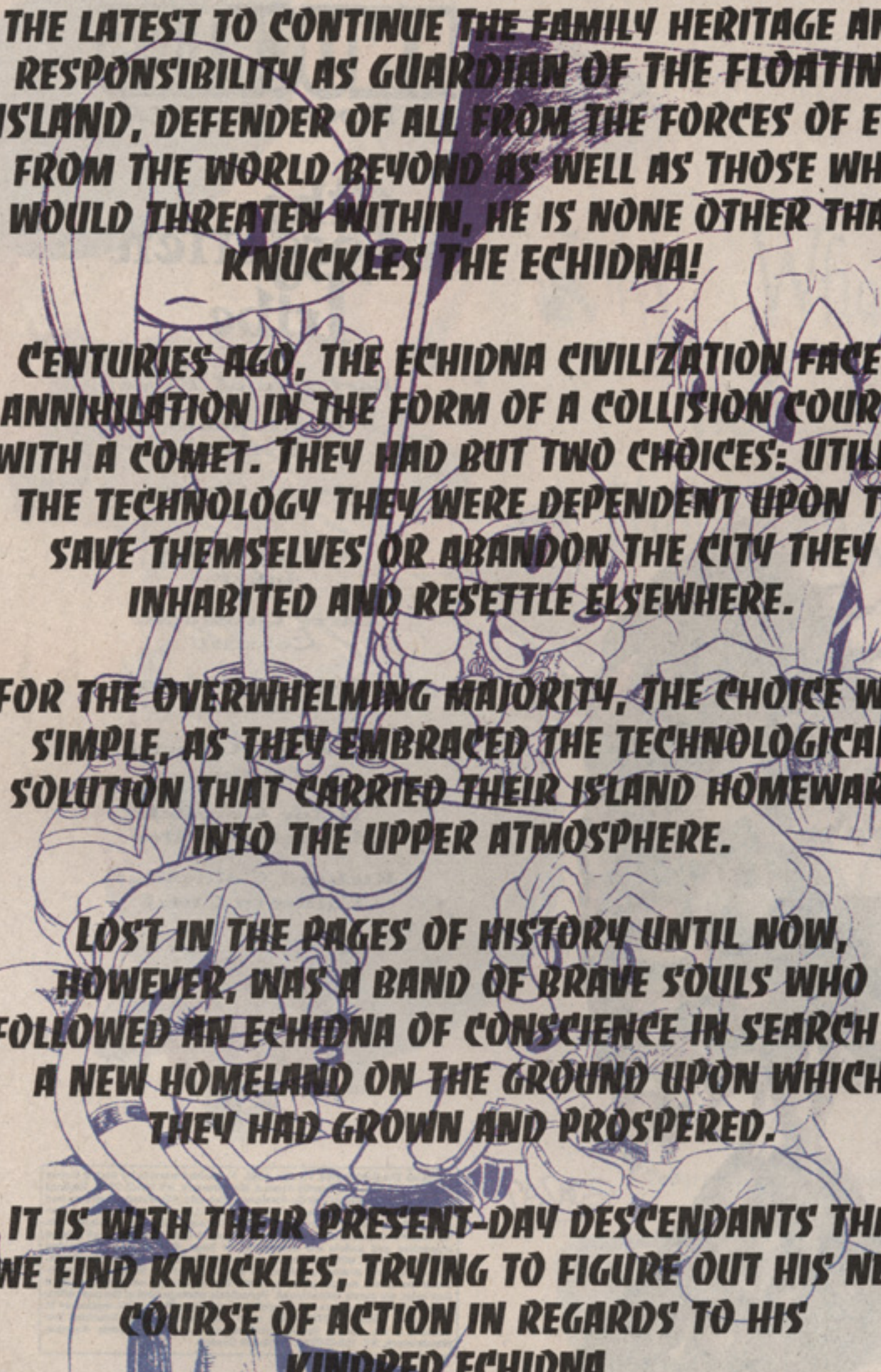
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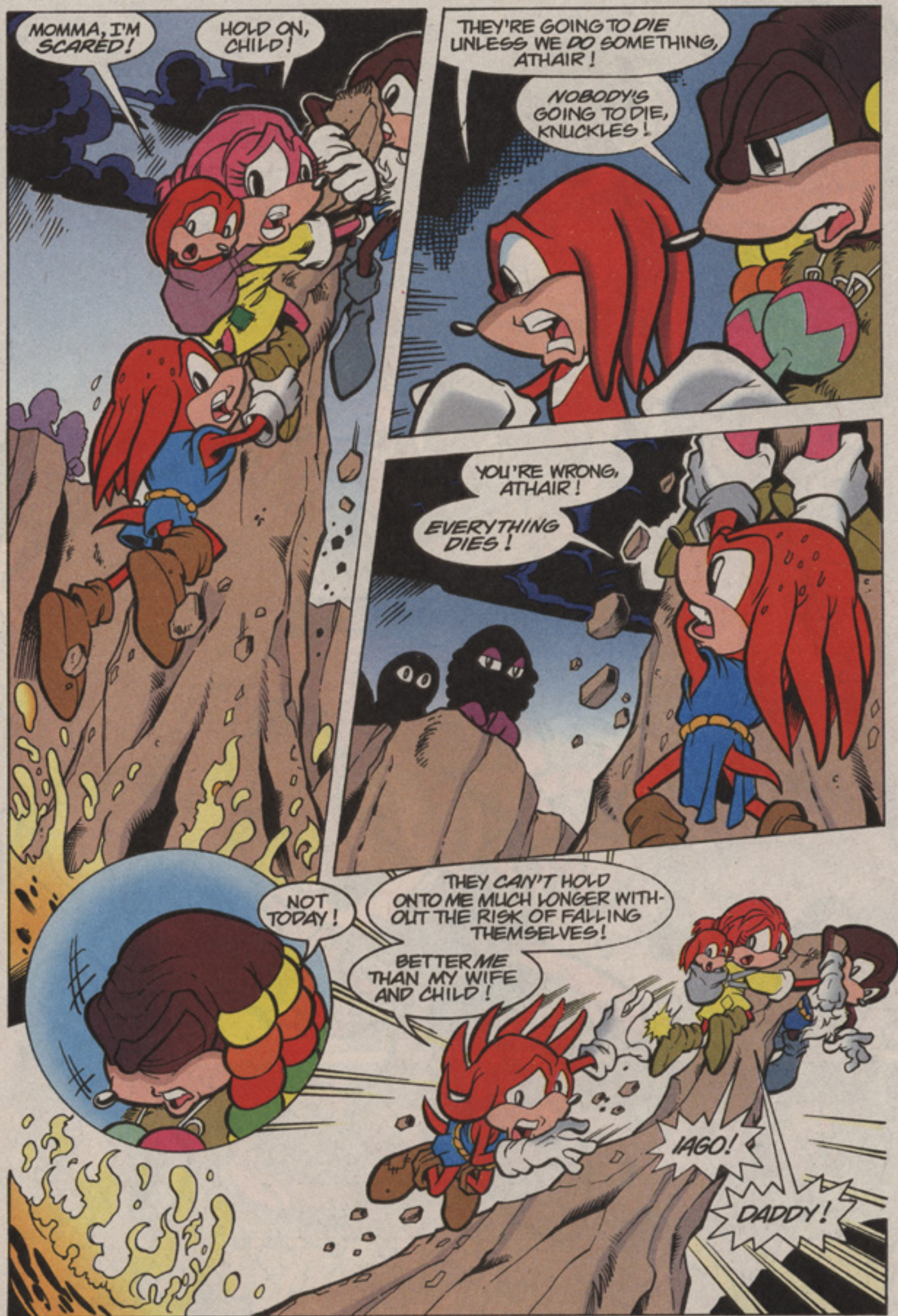
**BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES,
THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND
RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING
ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL
FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO
WOULD THREATEN WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER THAN
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

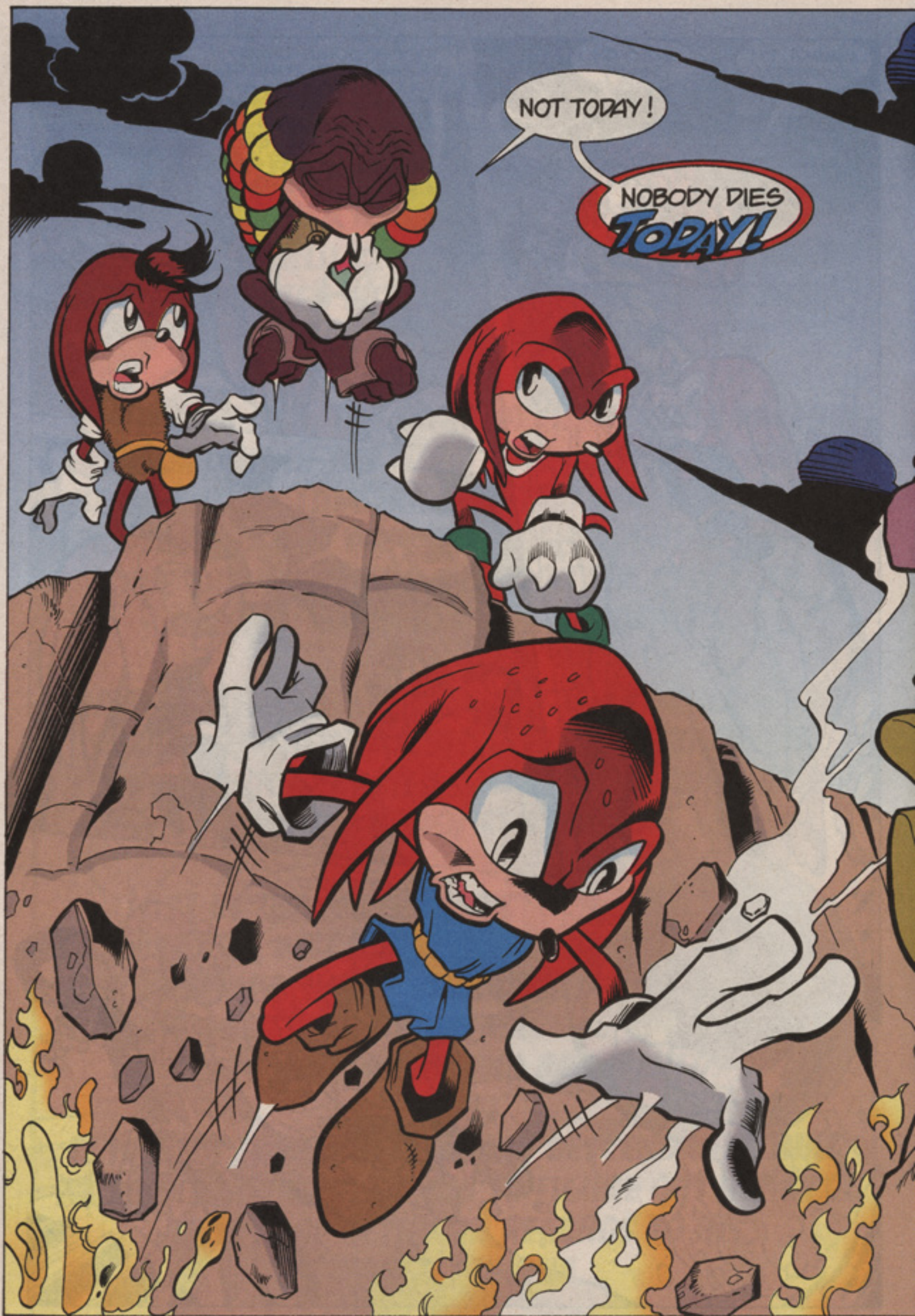
**CENTURIES AGO, THE ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION FACED
ANNIHILATION IN THE FORM OF A COLLISION COURSE
WITH A COMET. THEY HAD BUT TWO CHOICES: UTILIZE
THE TECHNOLOGY THEY WERE DEPENDENT UPON TO
SAVE THEMSELVES OR ABANDON THE CITY THEY
INHABITED AND RESETTLE ELSEWHERE.**

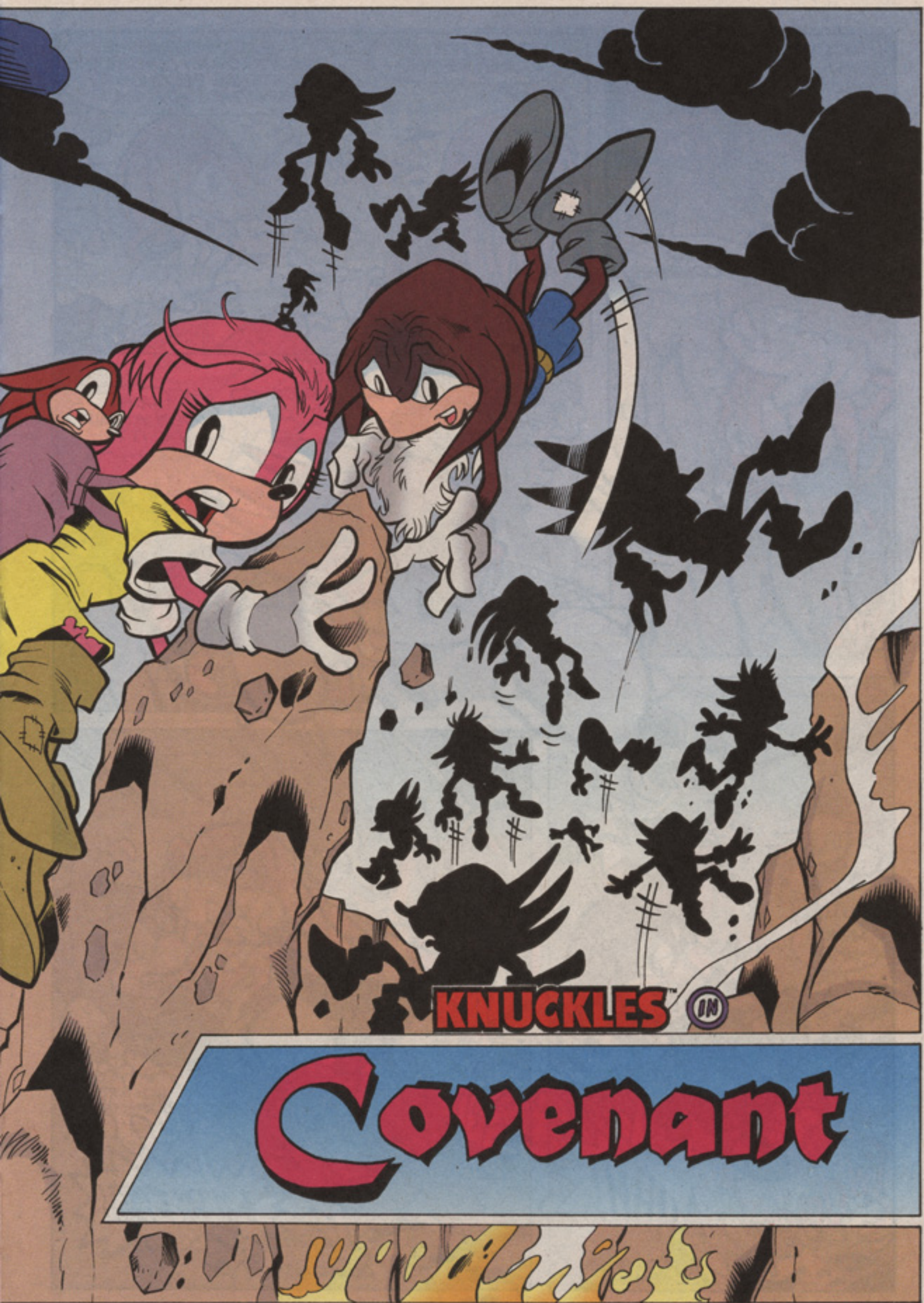
**FOR THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY, THE CHOICE WAS
SIMPLE, AS THEY EMBRACED THE TECHNOLOGICAL
SOLUTION THAT CARRIED THEIR ISLAND HOMEWARD
INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE.**

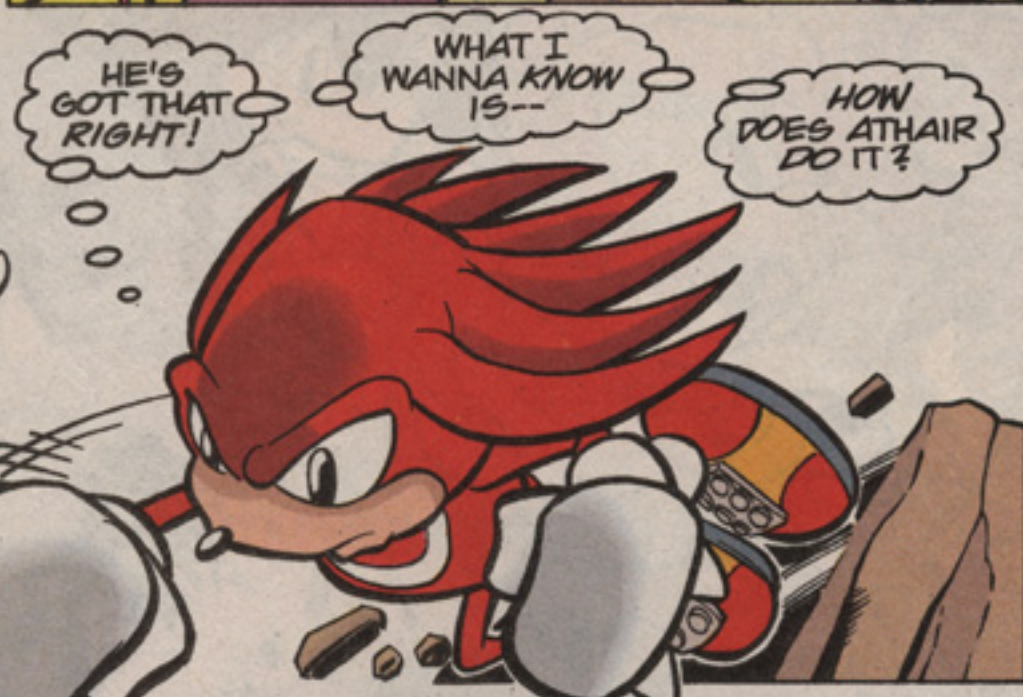
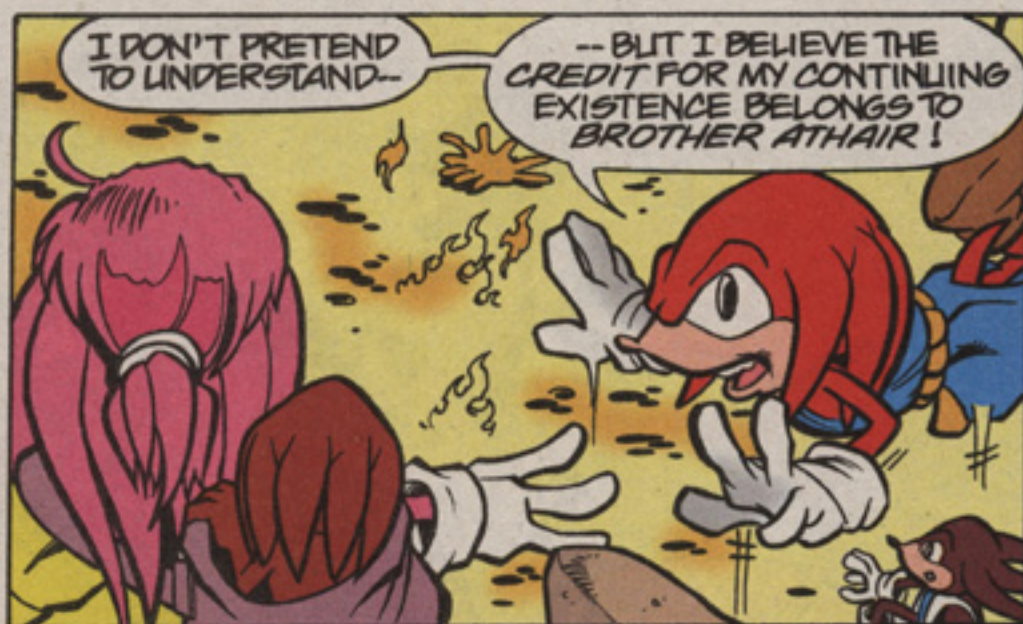
**LOST IN THE PAGES OF HISTORY UNTIL NOW,
HOWEVER, WAS A BAND OF BRAVE SOULS WHO
FOLLOWED AN ECHIDNA OF CONSCIENCE IN SEARCH OF
A NEW HOMELAND ON THE GROUND UPON WHICH
THEY HAD GROWN AND PROSPERED.**

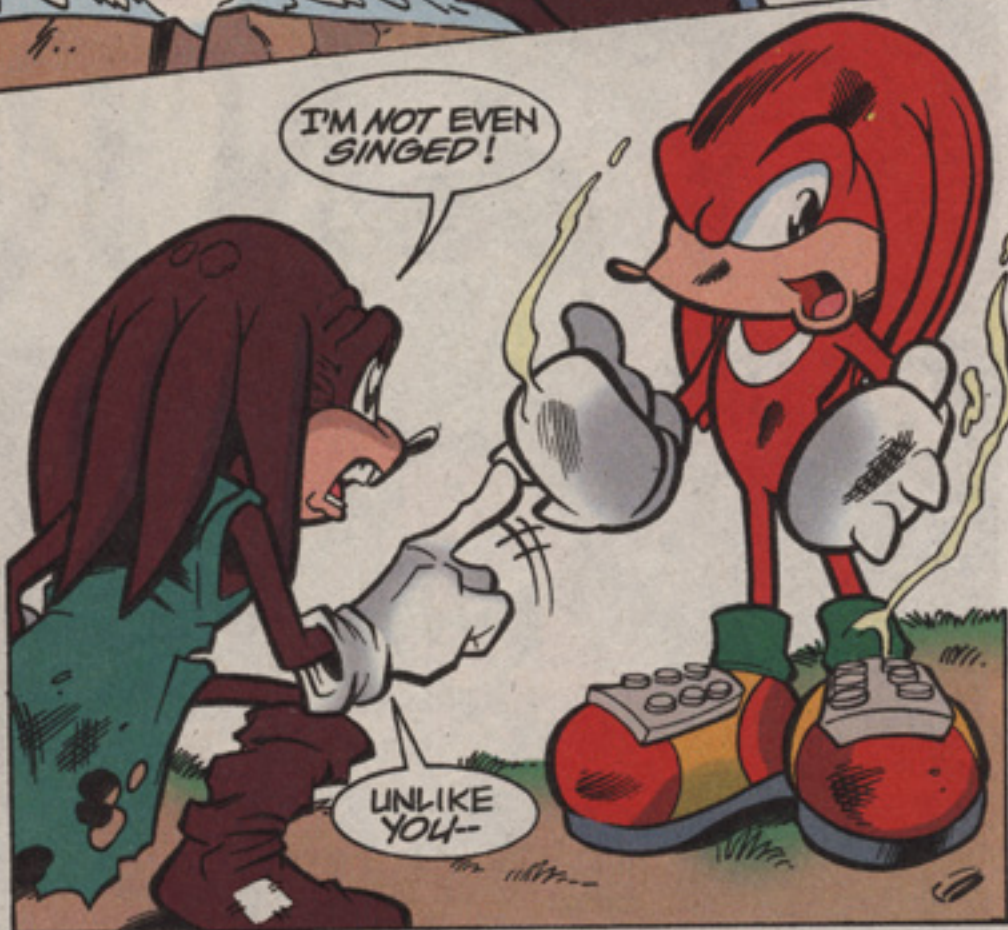
**IT IS WITH THEIR PRESENT-DAY DESCENDANTS THAT
WE FIND KNUCKLES, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HIS NEXT
COURSE OF ACTION IN REGARDS TO HIS
KINDRED ECHIDNA...**



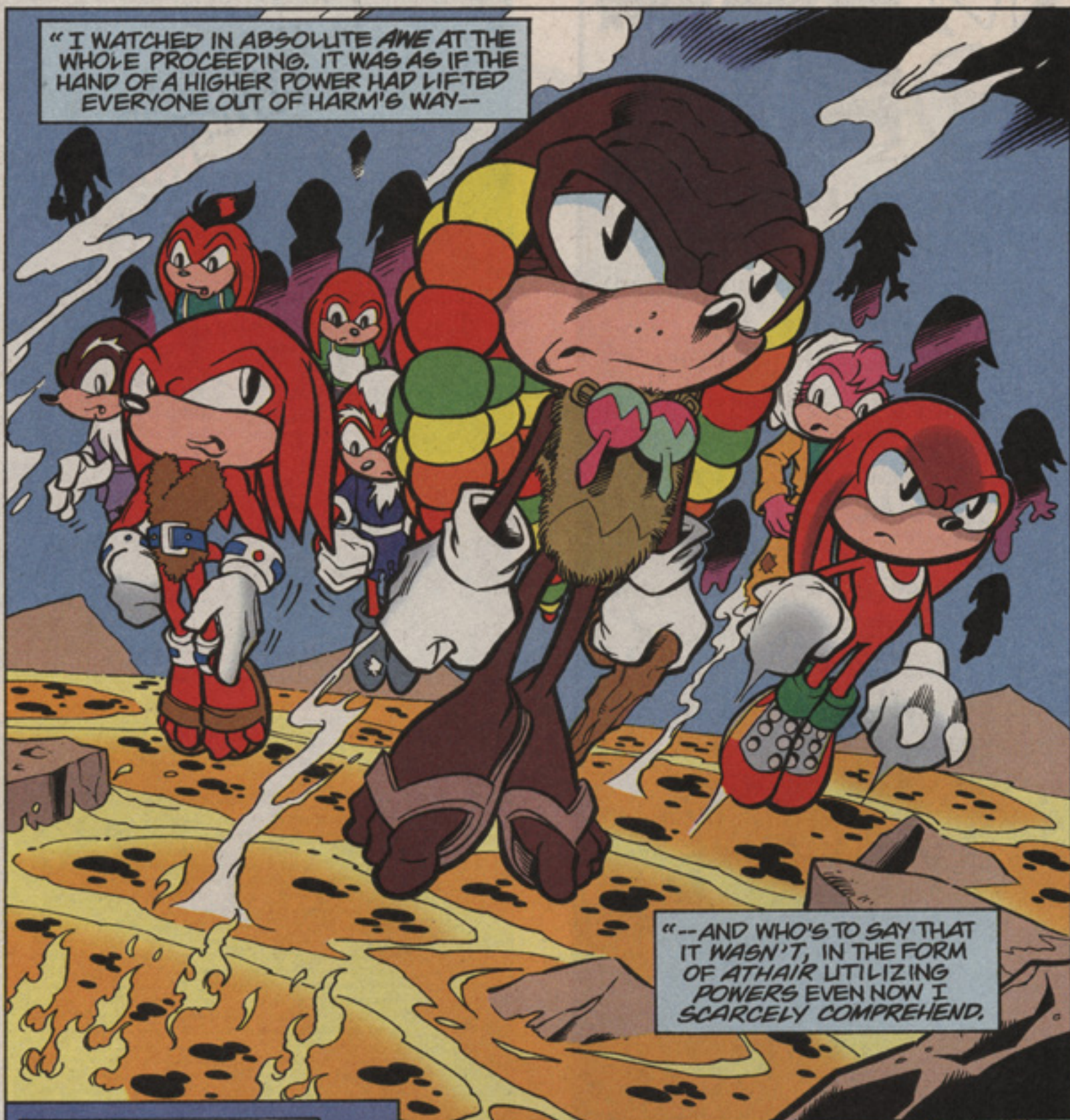






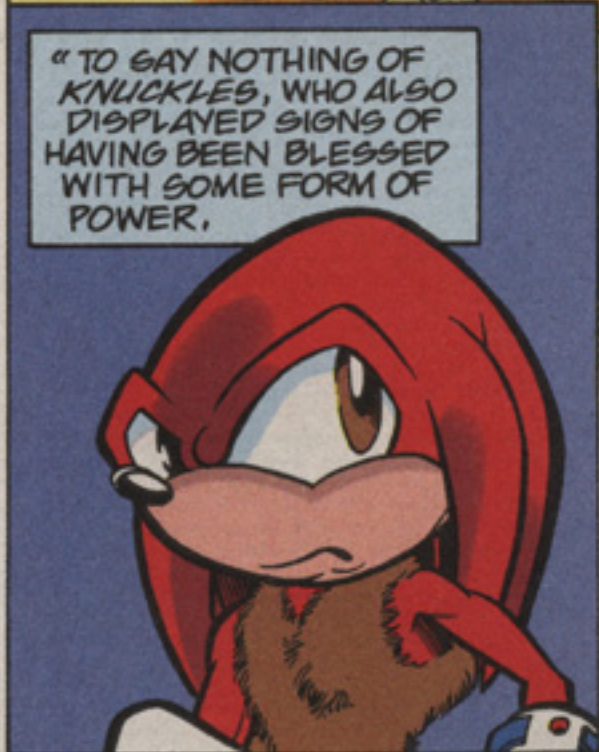


"I WATCHED IN ABSOLUTE AWE AT THE WHOLE PROCEEDING. IT WAS AS IF THE HAND OF A HIGHER POWER HAD LIFTED EVERYONE OUT OF HARM'S WAY--



"--AND WHO'S TO SAY THAT IT WASN'T, IN THE FORM OF ATHAIR UTILIZING POWERS EVEN NOW I SCARCELY COMPREHEND.

"TO SAY NOTHING OF KNUCKLES, WHO ALSO DISPLAYED SIGNS OF HAVING BEEN BLESSED WITH SOME FORM OF POWER,



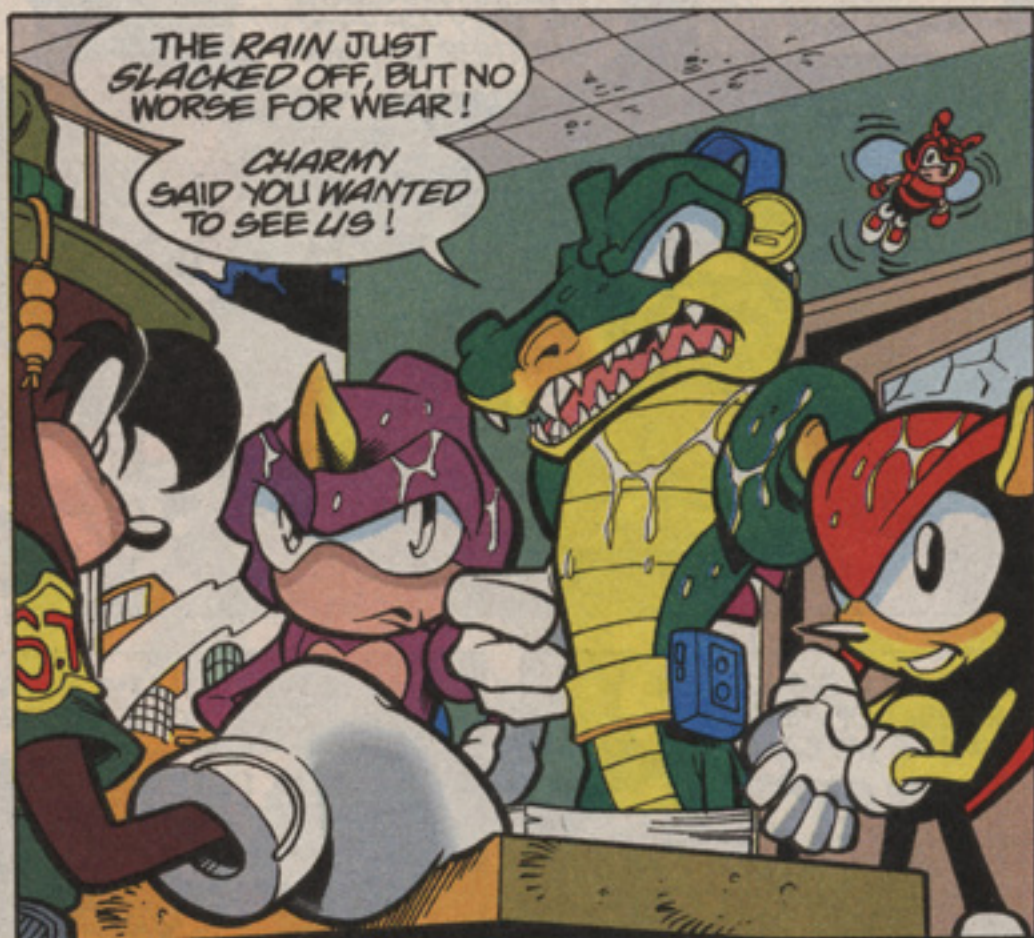
"HOW ELSE TO EXPLAIN HIS MIRACULOUS RECOVERY FROM THAT WHICH OTHERS WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED?"





AH, THERE YOU ARE, GENTLEMEN! DO COME IN!

LOOKING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER, ARE WE?



THE RAIN JUST SLACKED OFF, BUT NO WORSE FOR WEAR!

CHARMY SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE US!



I'VE RECEIVED WORD THAT KNUCKLES HAS LEFT THE FLOATING ISLAND ON A MISSION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

HE HAS?

LIKE WHERE DID HE SPLIT TO?



THAT DOES NOT CONCERN YOU!

WHAT DOES IS THAT YOU'VE BEEN DEPUTIZED TO ASSUME HIS DUTIES UNTIL HIS RETURN.

THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN YOU'RE TELLING US, I'LL BET!

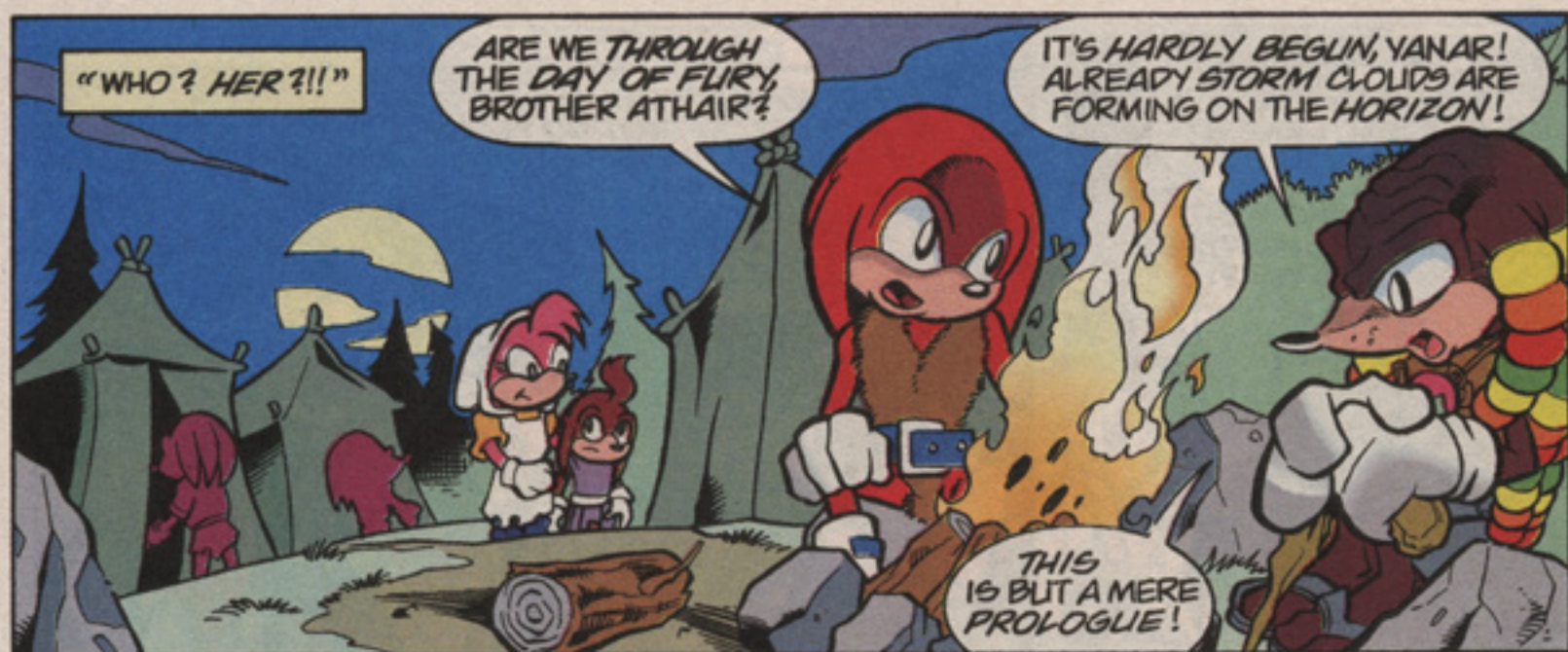
I'M TELLING YOU ALL I'M AUTHORIZED TO,

OH, ONE MORE THING--



--DESPITE MY RECOMMENDATION OTHERWISE--

--MEET YOUR NEW PARTNER!



"WHO? HER?!!"

ARE WE THROUGH
THE DAY OF FURY,
BROTHER ATHAIR?

IT'S HARDLY BEGUN, YANAR!
ALREADY STORM CLOUDS ARE
FORMING ON THE HORIZON!

THIS
IS BUT A MERE
PROLOGUE!



WE SHOULD SAVOR THE
MOMENT OF PEACE
WHILE WE CAN.

AH,
KNICKLES,
MY BOY! WHY
DON'T YOU
JOIN US?



THAT'S AN INVITATION YOU MAY
COME TO REGRET, GRANDFATHER!

DO I DETECT
A NOTE OF HOSTILITY,
BROTHER KNICKLES?



IT'S ALRIGHT,
YANAR! IF ANYTHING,
I'D EXPECT YOU TO BE
MORE SYMPATHETIC
TO MY GREAT-
GRANDSON!

YOU'RE BOTH
WANDERERS IN A
SEARCH FOR
KNOWLEDGE!



I'VE ONLY
ONE QUESTION FOR
YOU, GRANDFATHER
ATHAIR!

JUST
ONE?

JUST ONE!

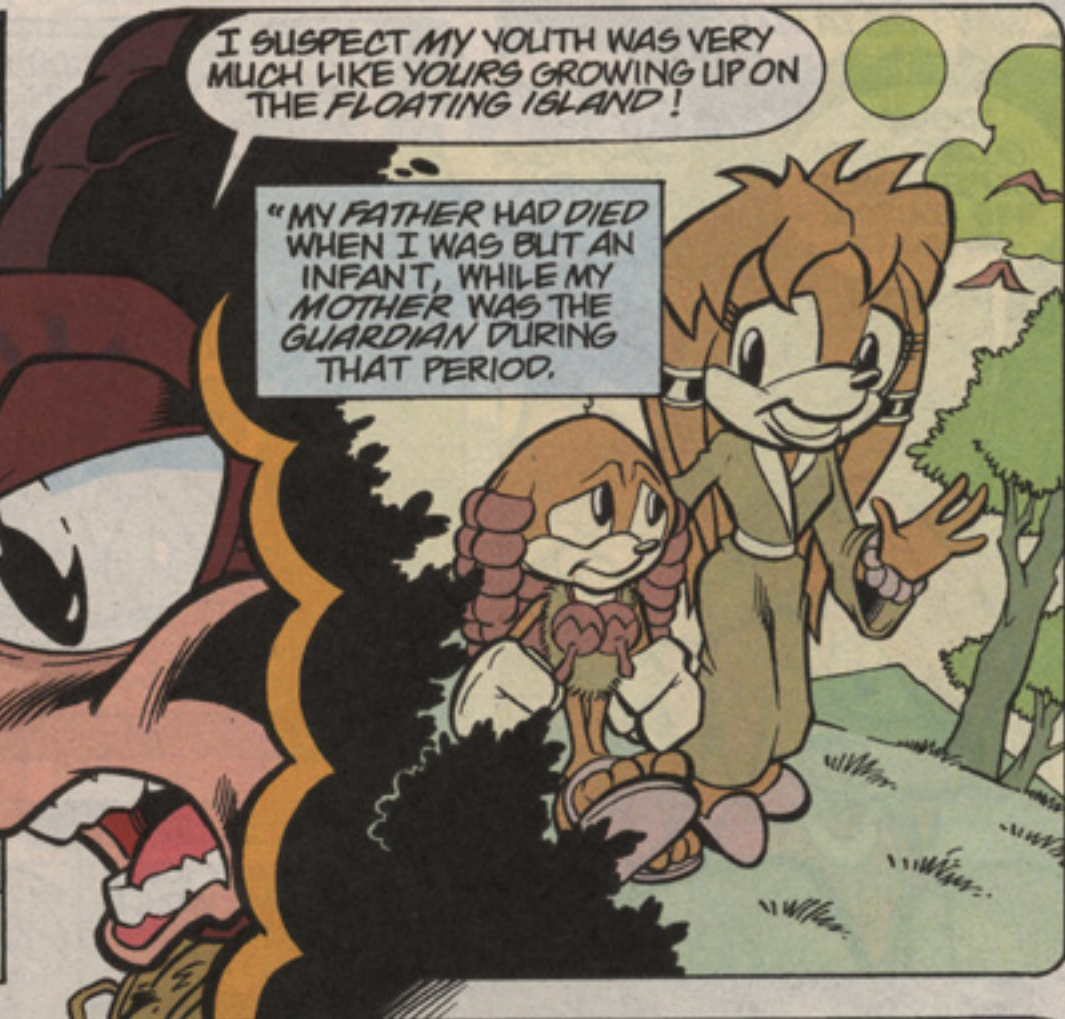
WHY DID
YOU ABANDON
YOUR DUTIES AS A
GUARDIAN?



A FAIR
QUESTION,
SON--

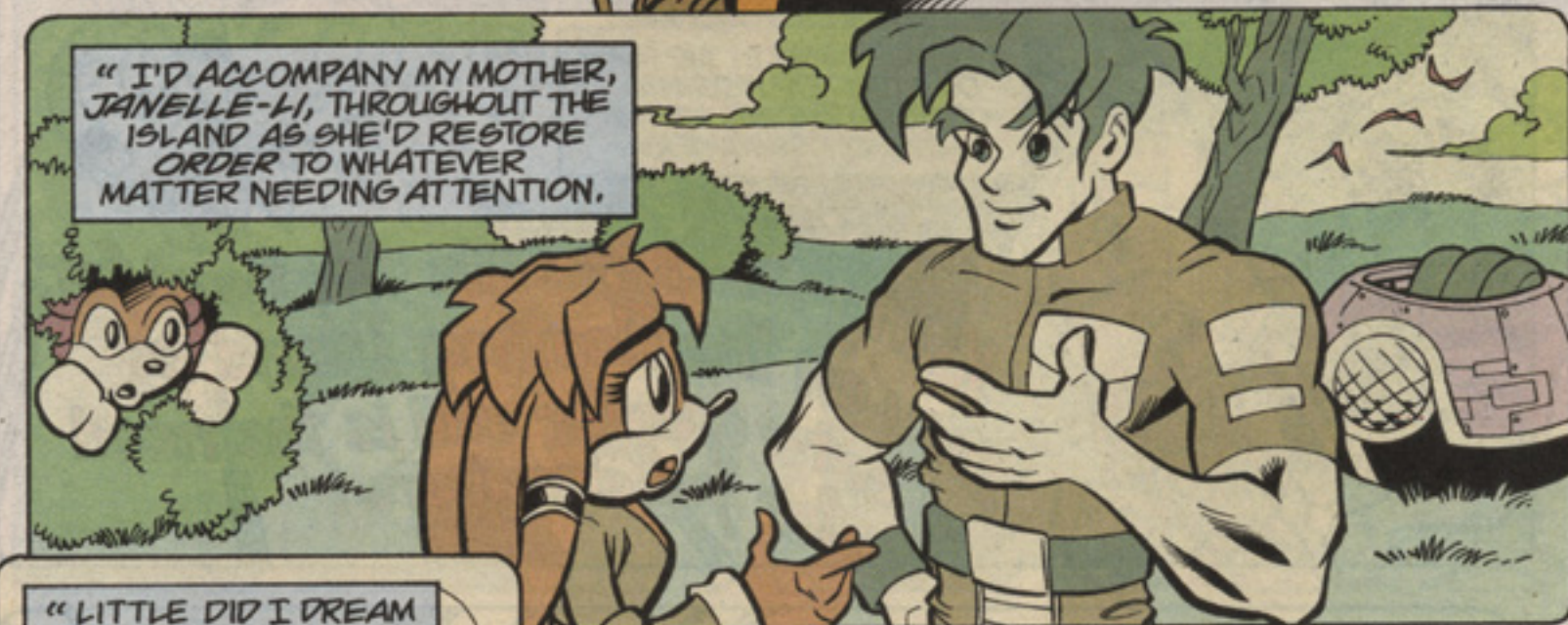
--AS WELL AS
A PERCEPTIVE
ONE!

I SEE YOU
ARE LEARNING,
KNUCKLES!

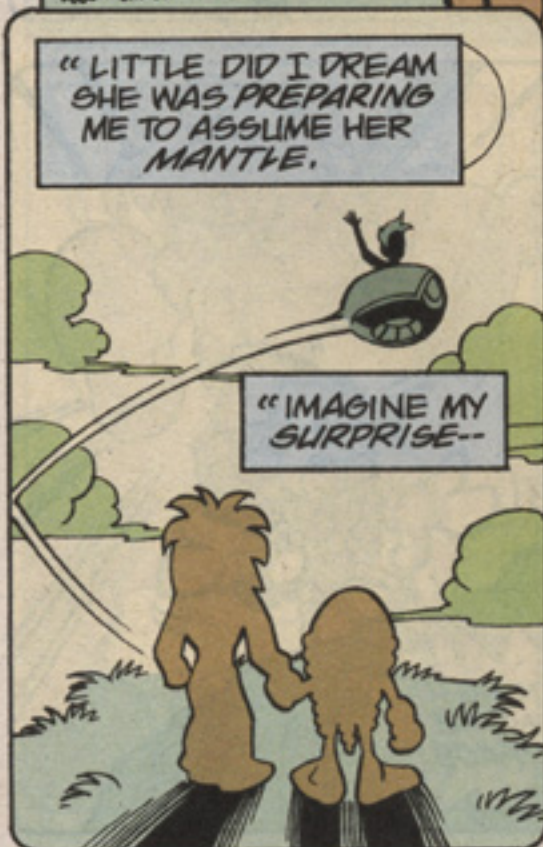


I SUSPECT MY YOUTH WAS VERY
MUCH LIKE YOURS GROWING UP ON
THE FLOATING ISLAND!

"MY FATHER HAD DIED
WHEN I WAS BUT AN
INFANT, WHILE MY
MOTHER WAS THE
GUARDIAN DURING
THAT PERIOD."

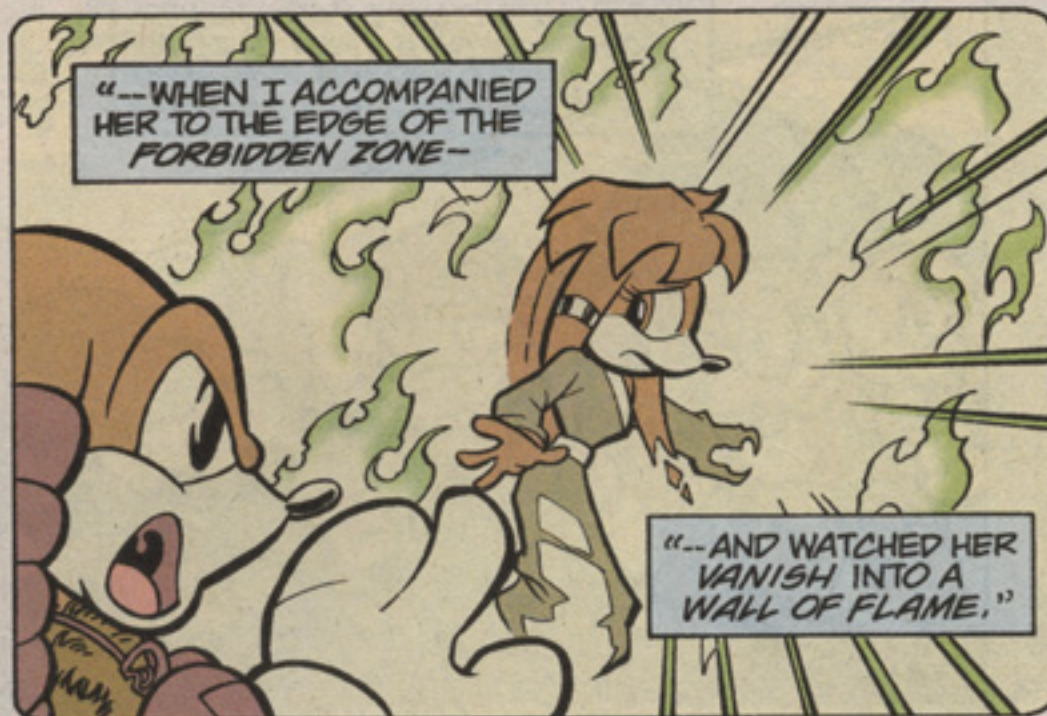


"I'D ACCOMPANY MY MOTHER,
JANELLE-LI, THROUGHOUT THE
ISLAND AS SHE'D RESTORE
ORDER TO WHATEVER
MATTER NEEDING ATTENTION."



"LITTLE DID I DREAM
SHE WAS PREPARING
ME TO ASSUME HER
MANTLE."

"IMAGINE MY
SURPRISE--"



"--WHEN I ACCOMPANIED
HER TO THE EDGE OF THE
FORBIDDEN ZONE--"

"--AND WATCHED HER
VANISH INTO A
WALL OF FLAME."



HEY! DEJA VU!

DO ALL
GUARDIANS
EXPERIENCE
THIS ROUTINE
OR WHAT?

MOST HAVE,
BUT THAT'S
ANOTHER
STORY!



AS I WAS
SAYING--

"JANELLE-LI HAD NOW LEFT ME
IN CHARGE, AND I HANDLED
MY RESPONSIBILITIES
AS WELL AS ANY GUARDIAN
BEFORE OR SINCE!

"JUST LIKE YOU, I HAD
MANY QUESTIONS--

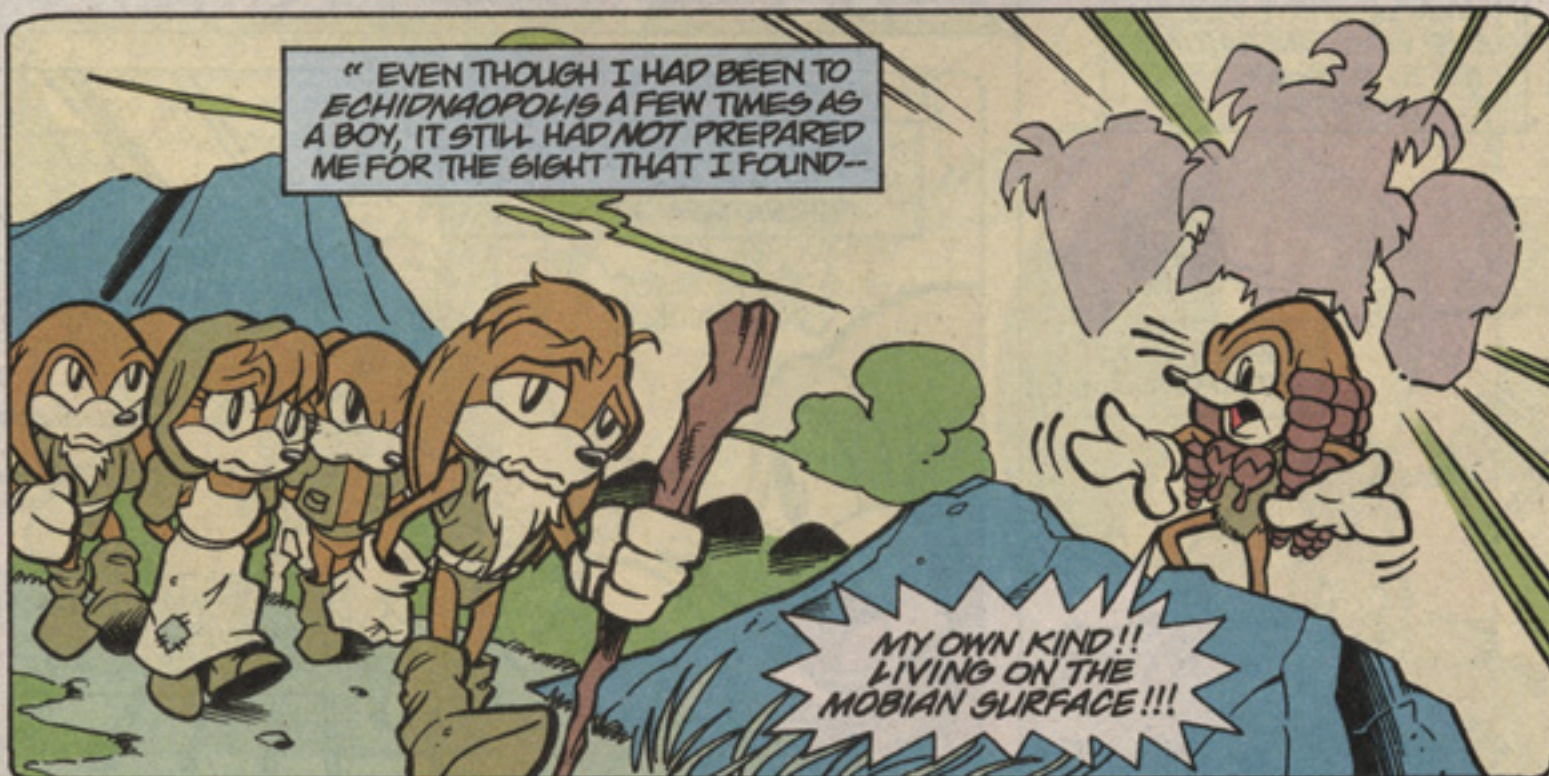


"--BUT UNLIKE YOU, I
HAD FAITH I WOULD
FIND MY ANSWERS
IN DUE TIME--

"--WHICH CAME IN THE FORM
OF A TRIO OF COSMIC
BEINGS KNOWN AS THE
ANCIENT WALKERS.

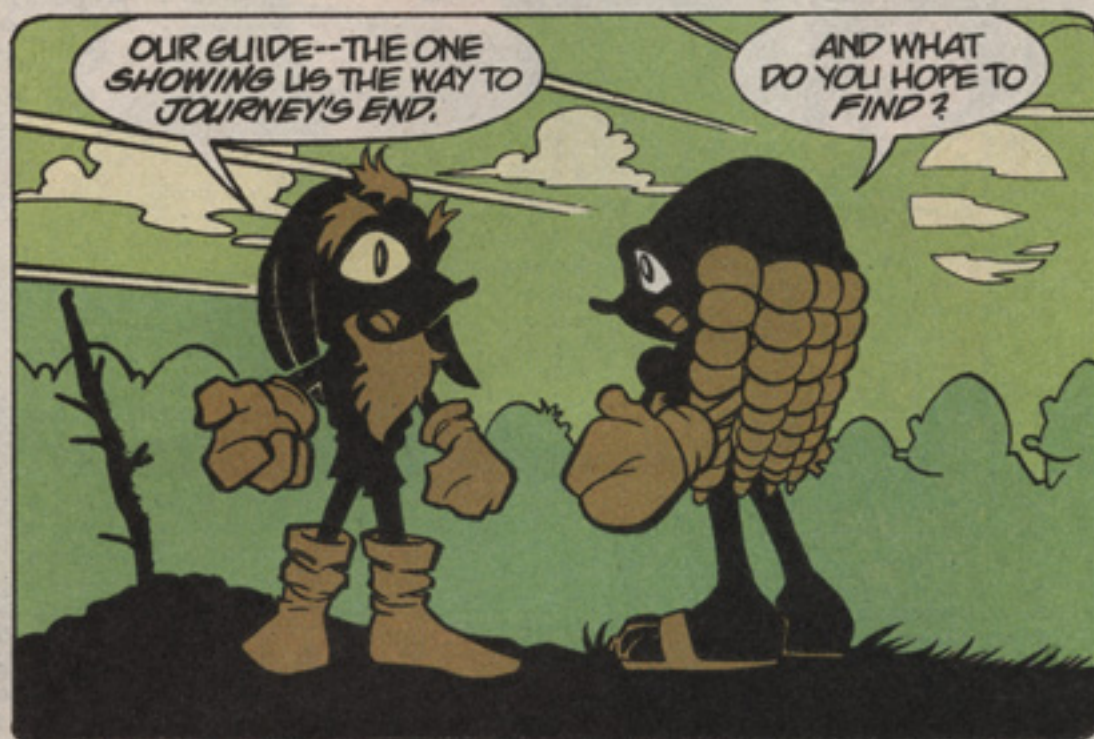
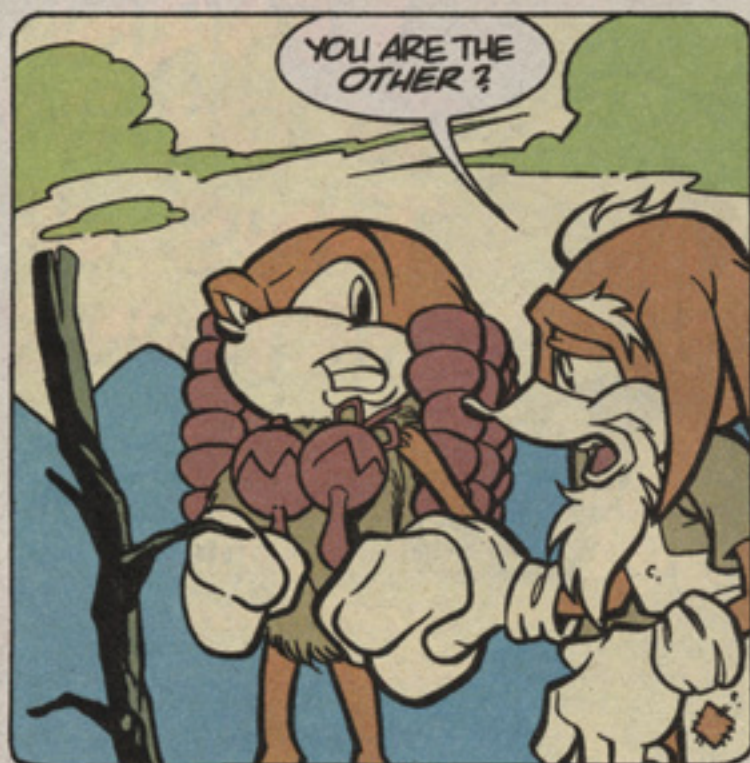
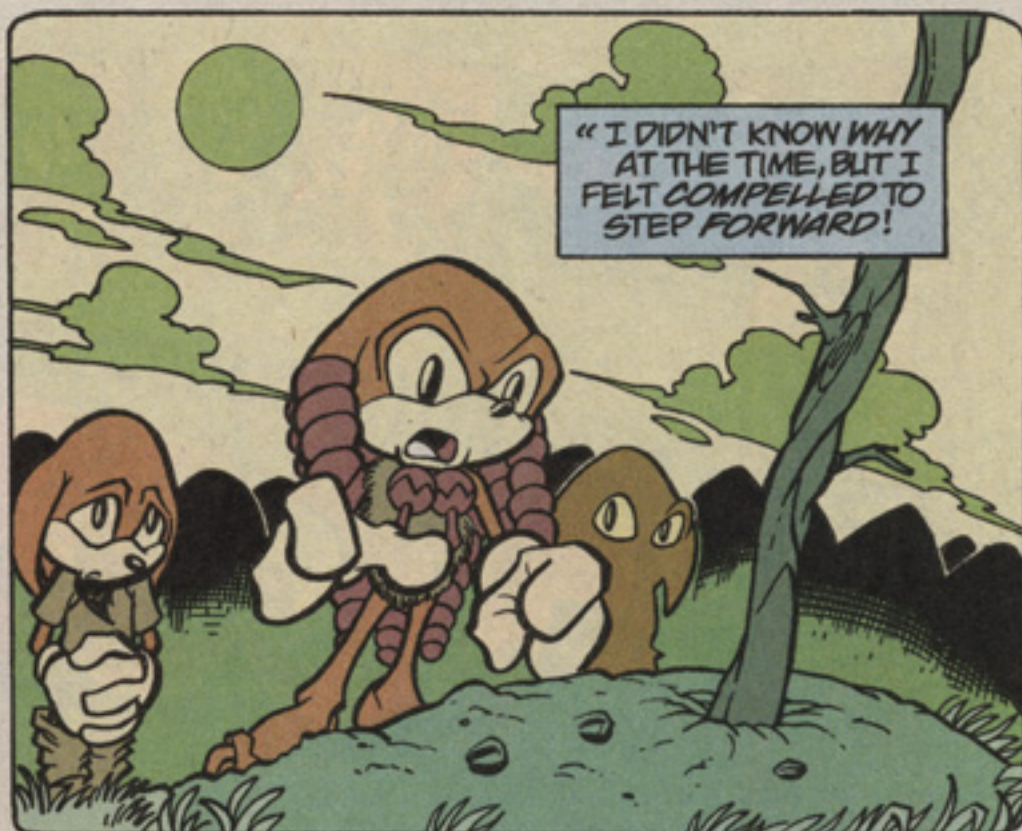


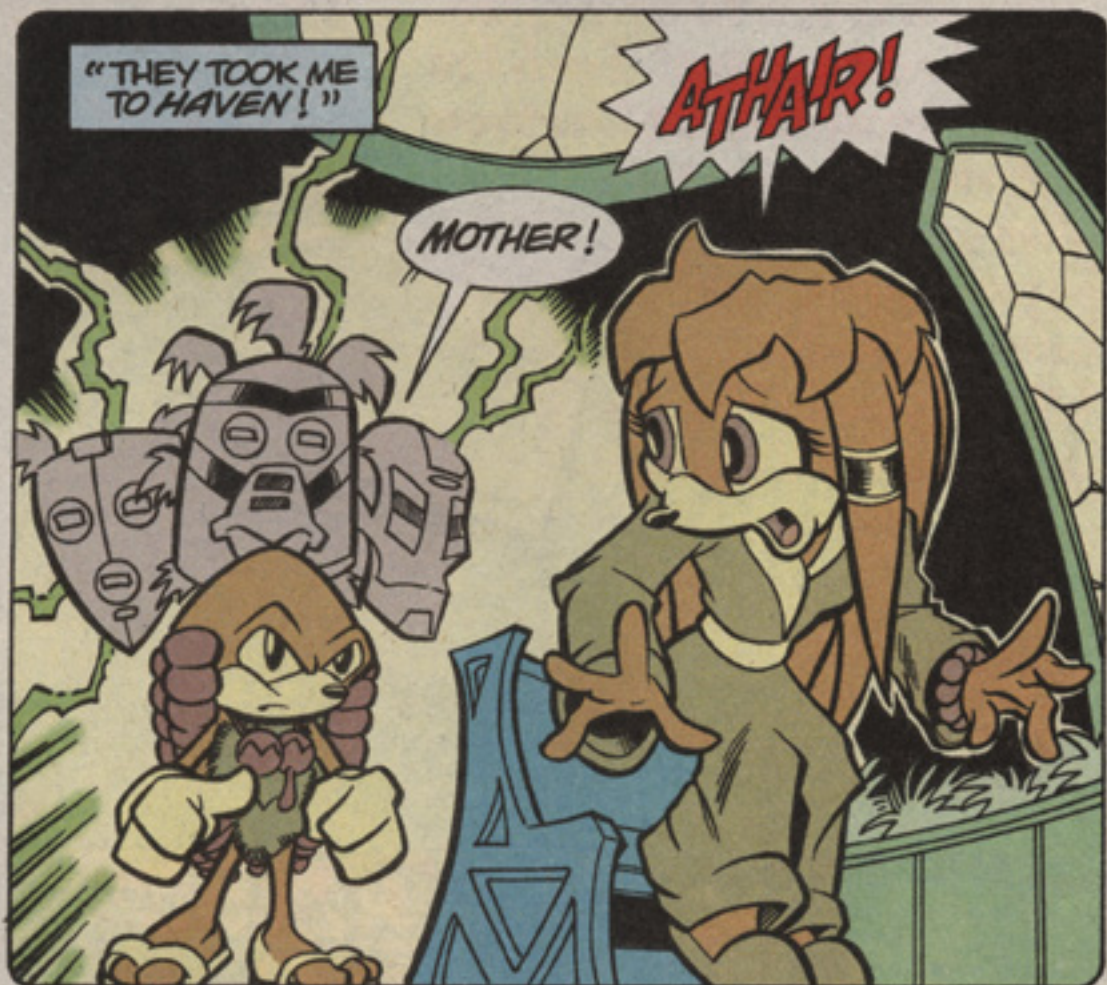
**Young Athair-- while the need for
thou on the Floating Island be
great-- greater still is the need
for you elsewhere!**

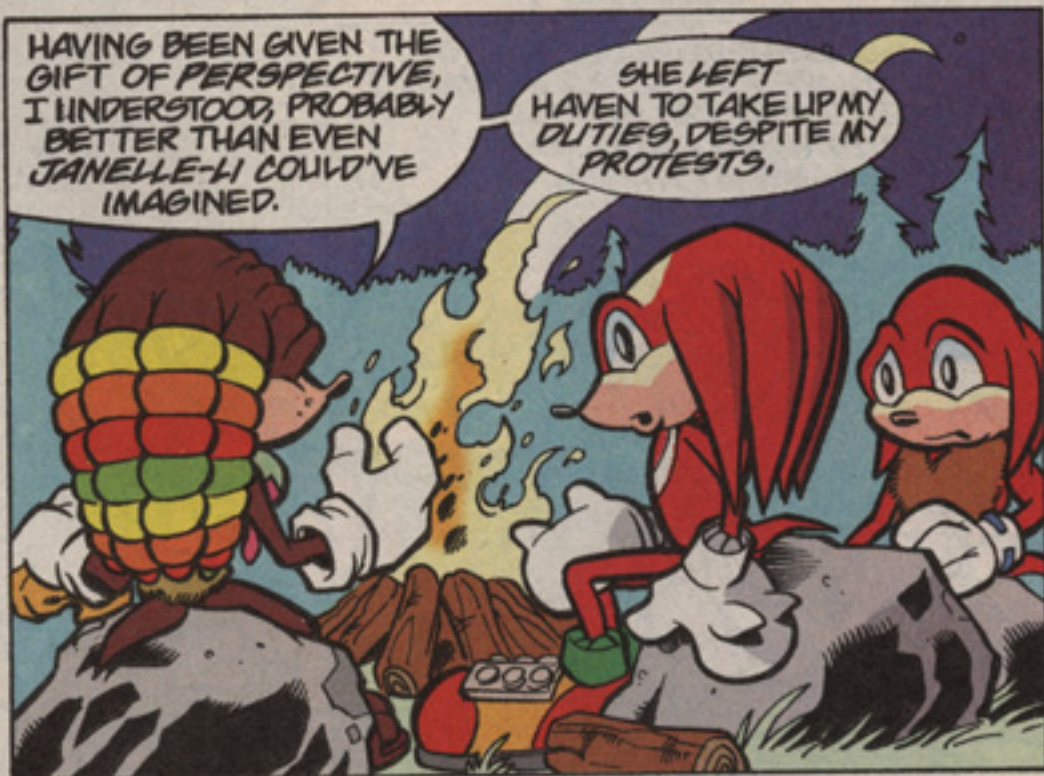
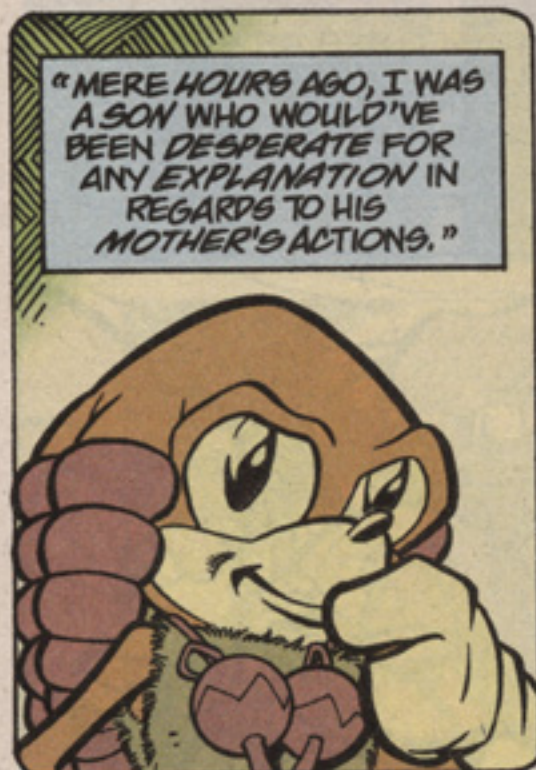
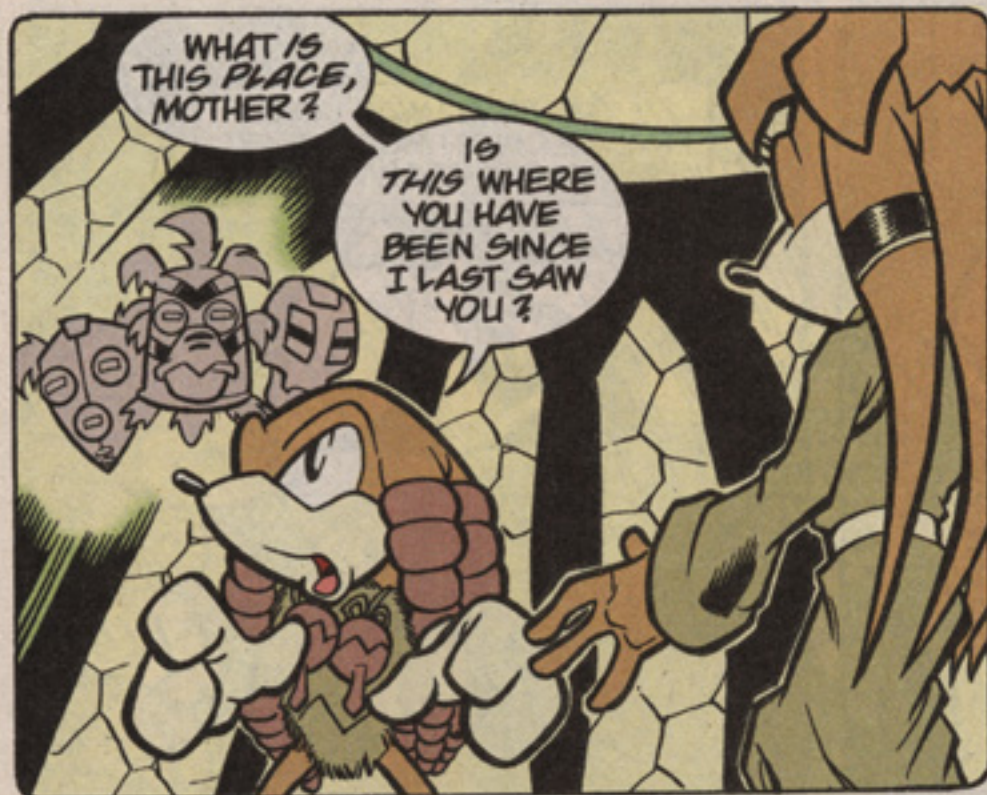


"EVEN THOUGH I HAD BEEN TO
ECHIDNAOPOLIS A FEW TIMES AS
A BOY, IT STILL HAD NOT PREPARED
ME FOR THE SIGHT THAT I FOUND--

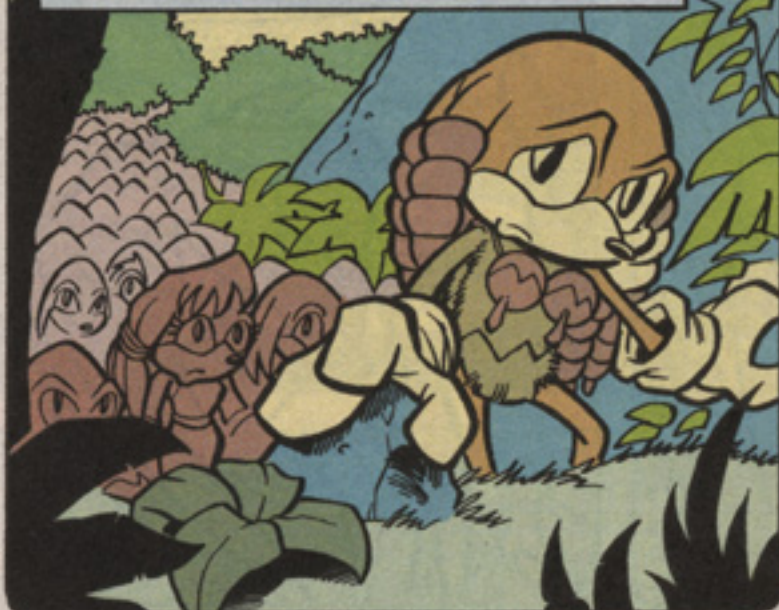
**MY OWN KIND!!
LIVING ON THE
MOBIAN SURFACE!!!**



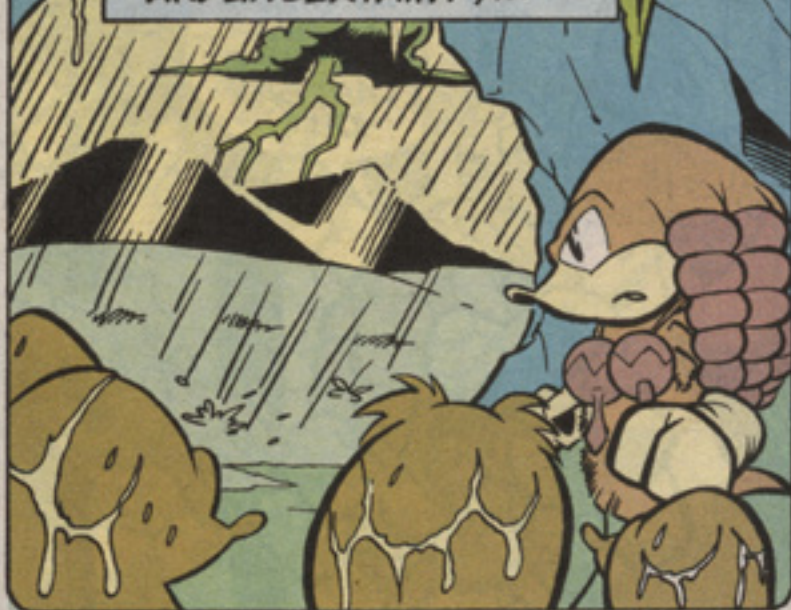




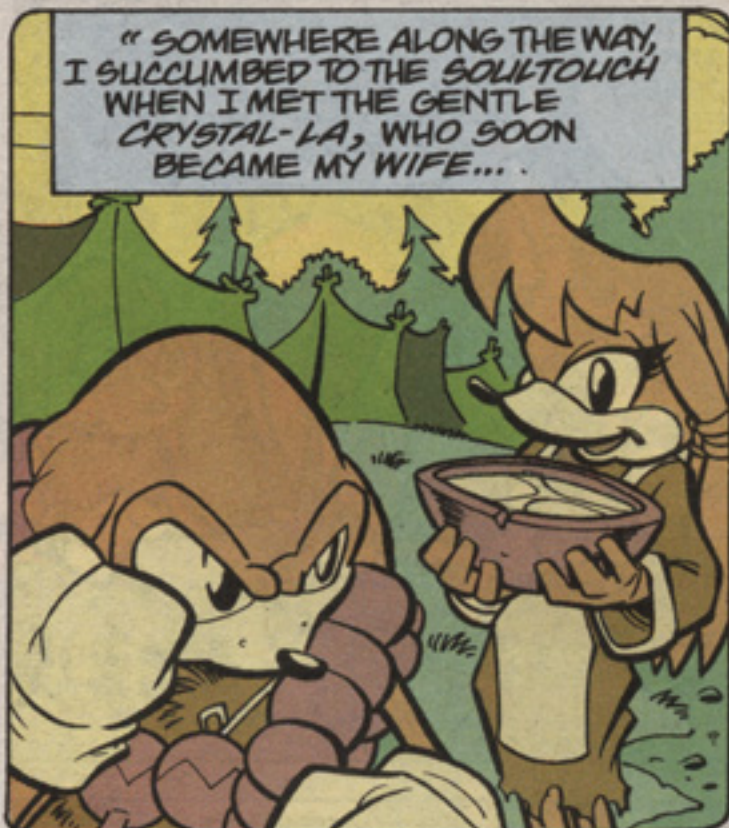
"--AS I WAS DESTINED TO BE A MITRE INSTEAD, LEADING THE TRIBE TO THE LOST CITY OF ALBION, FOLLOWING THE TRAIL LEFT BEHIND BY OUR FOREFATHERS!



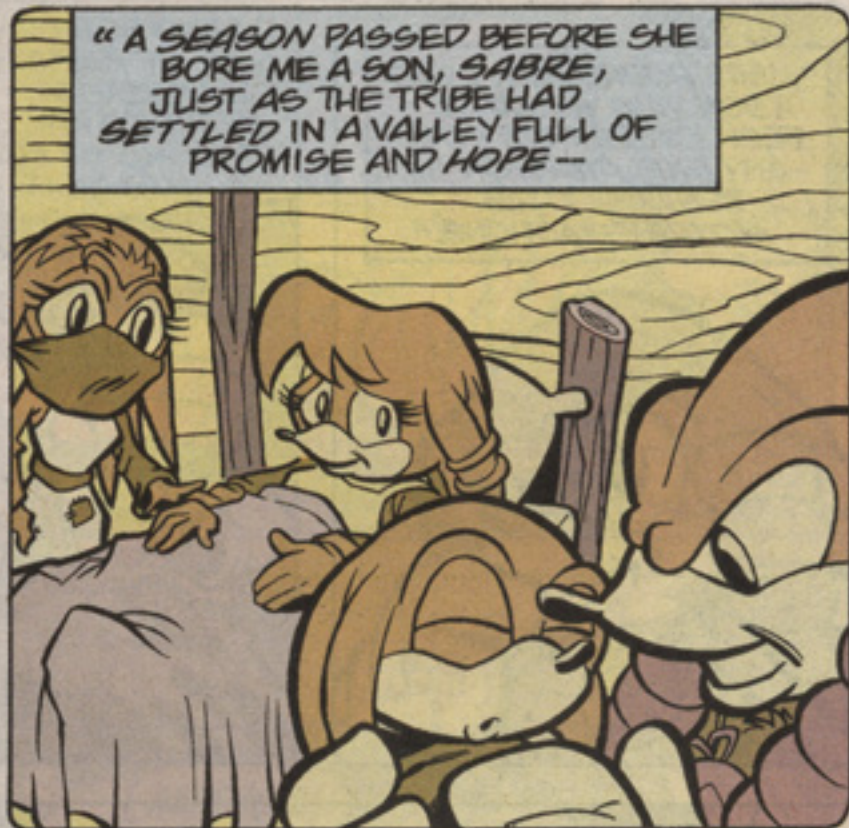
"THE ROAD WAS LONG, FRAUGHT WITH MUCH PERIL AND UNCERTAINTY..."



"SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, I SUCCUMBED TO THE SOUL TOUCH WHEN I MET THE GENTLE CRYSTAL-LA, WHO SOON BECAME MY WIFE..."



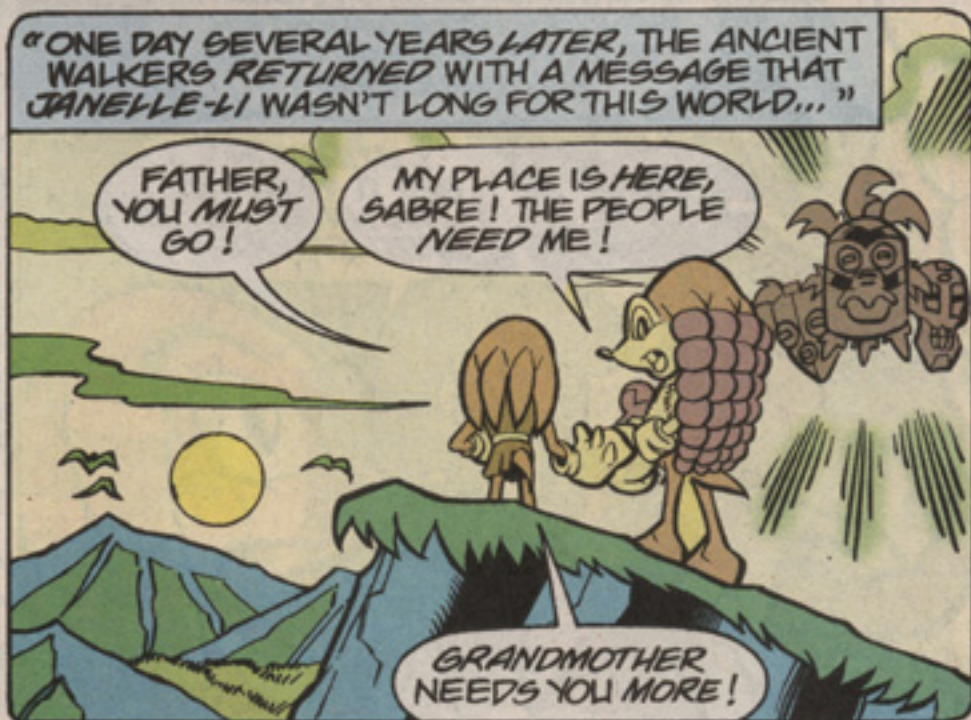
"A SEASON PASSED BEFORE SHE BORE ME A SON, SABRE, JUST AS THE TRIBE HAD SETTLED IN A VALLEY FULL OF PROMISE AND HOPE--"

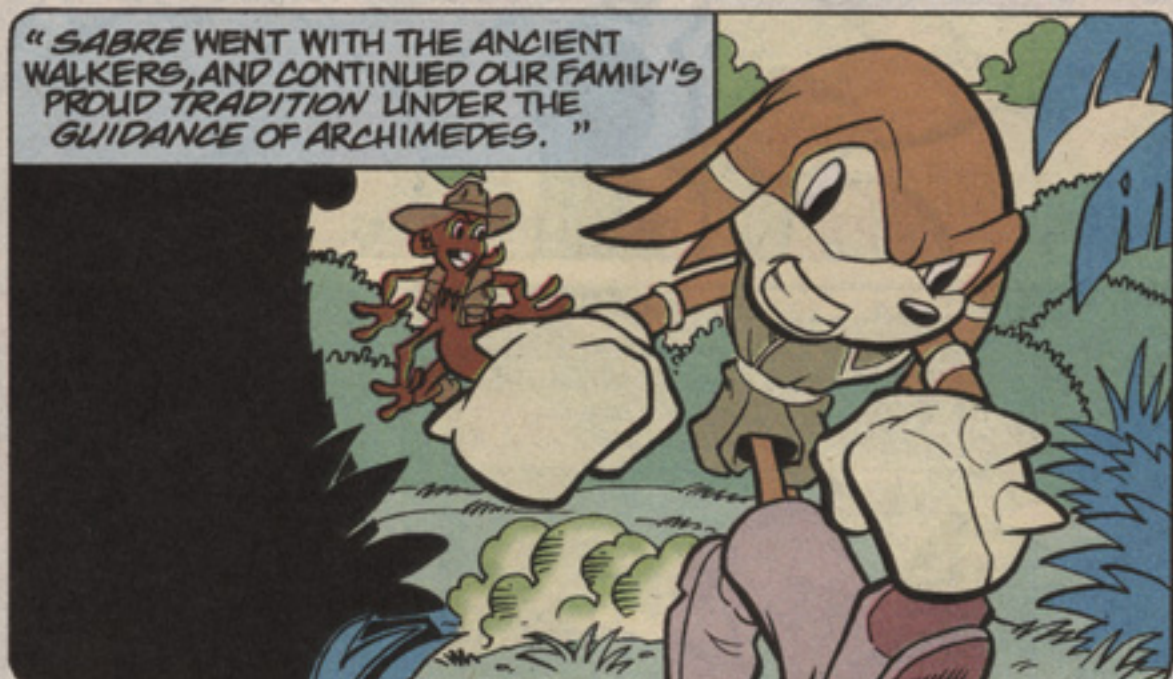


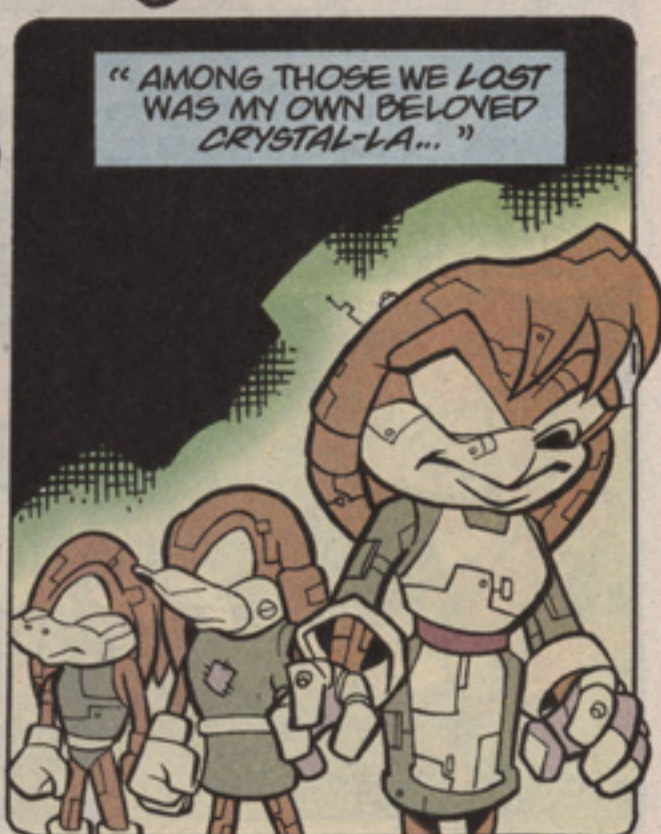
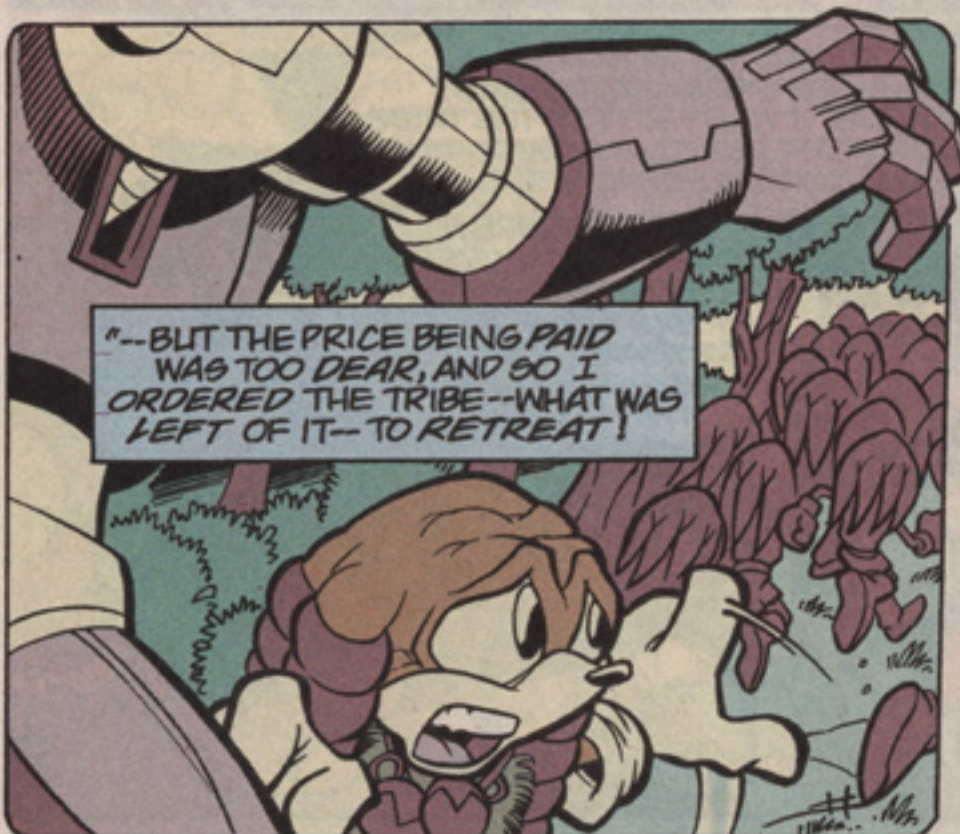
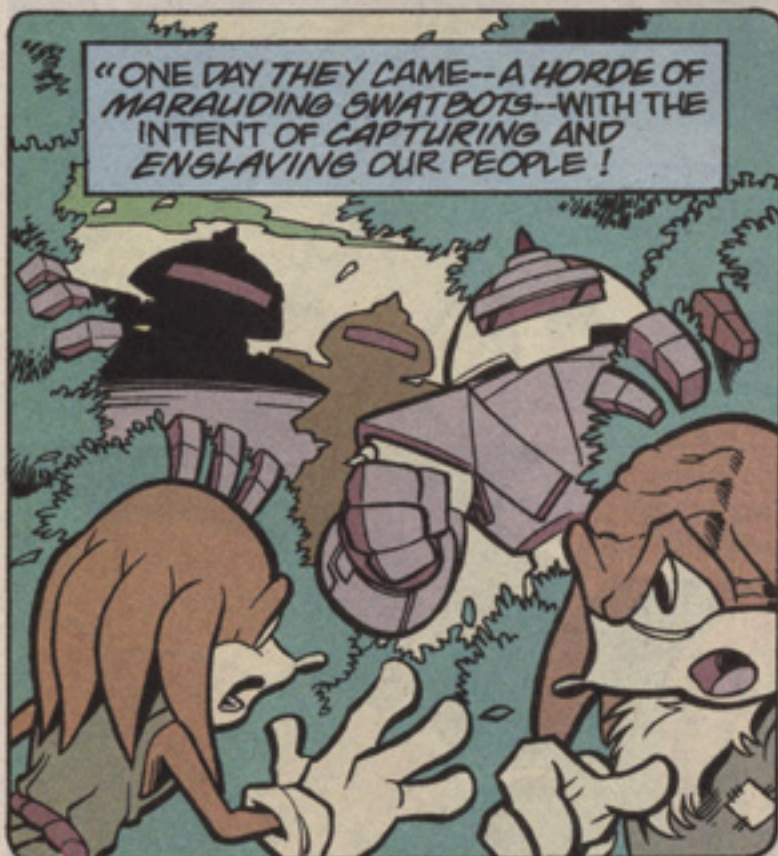
"--UNTIL THE DROUGHT CAME, FORCING US TO MOVE ONCE AGAIN."



"ONE DAY SEVERAL YEARS LATER, THE ANCIENT WALKERS RETURNED WITH A MESSAGE THAT JANELLE-LI WASN'T LONG FOR THIS WORLD..."







"SINCE THEN, I'VE ACTED AS AN AGENT FOR THE ANCIENT WALKERS ON BEHALF OF THE GREATER GOOD, WHILE TENDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE TRIBE."



I'VE SO MANY QUESTIONS-- AND YET--I'M SO TIRED...

THEY CAN WAIT UNTIL THE MORNING, KNUCKLES!



I GUESS I'LL CALL IT A NIGHT THEN!

SLEEP WELL, KNUCKLES!



I HATED TO DO THAT, BUT I COULD SEE THE BOY WAS OVERWHELMED BY IT ALL!

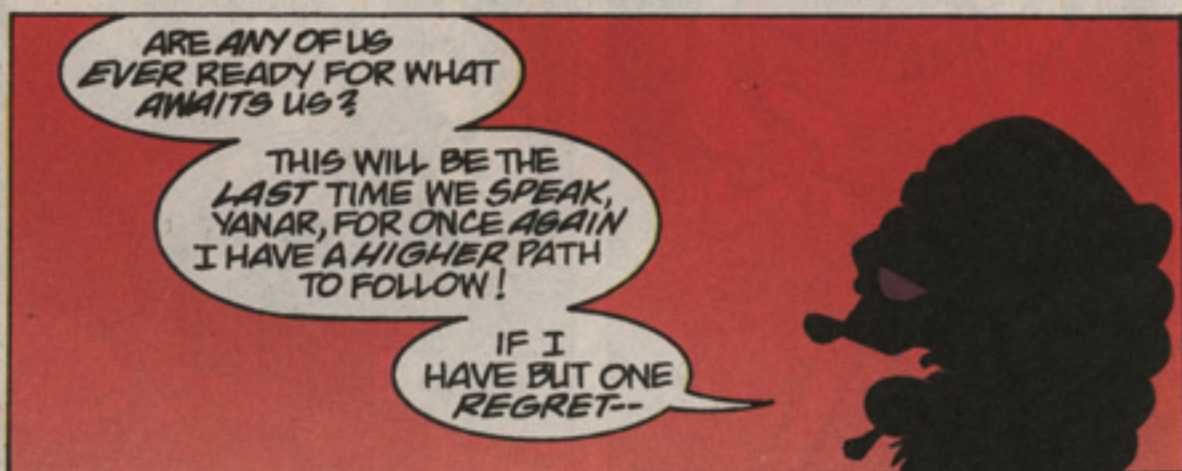
DO YOU THINK HE WAS READY?



ARE ANY OF US EVER READY FOR WHAT AWAITS US?

THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME WE SPEAK, YANAR, FOR ONCE AGAIN I HAVE A HIGHER PATH TO FOLLOW!

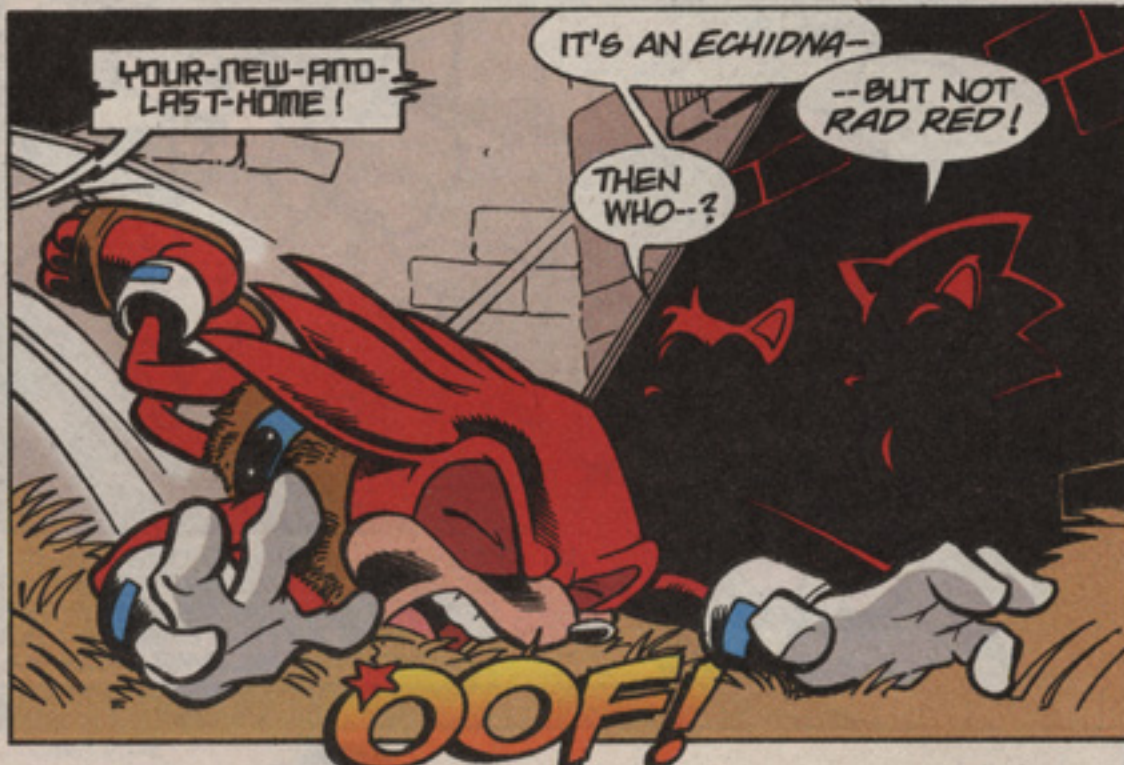
IF I HAVE BUT ONE REGRET--

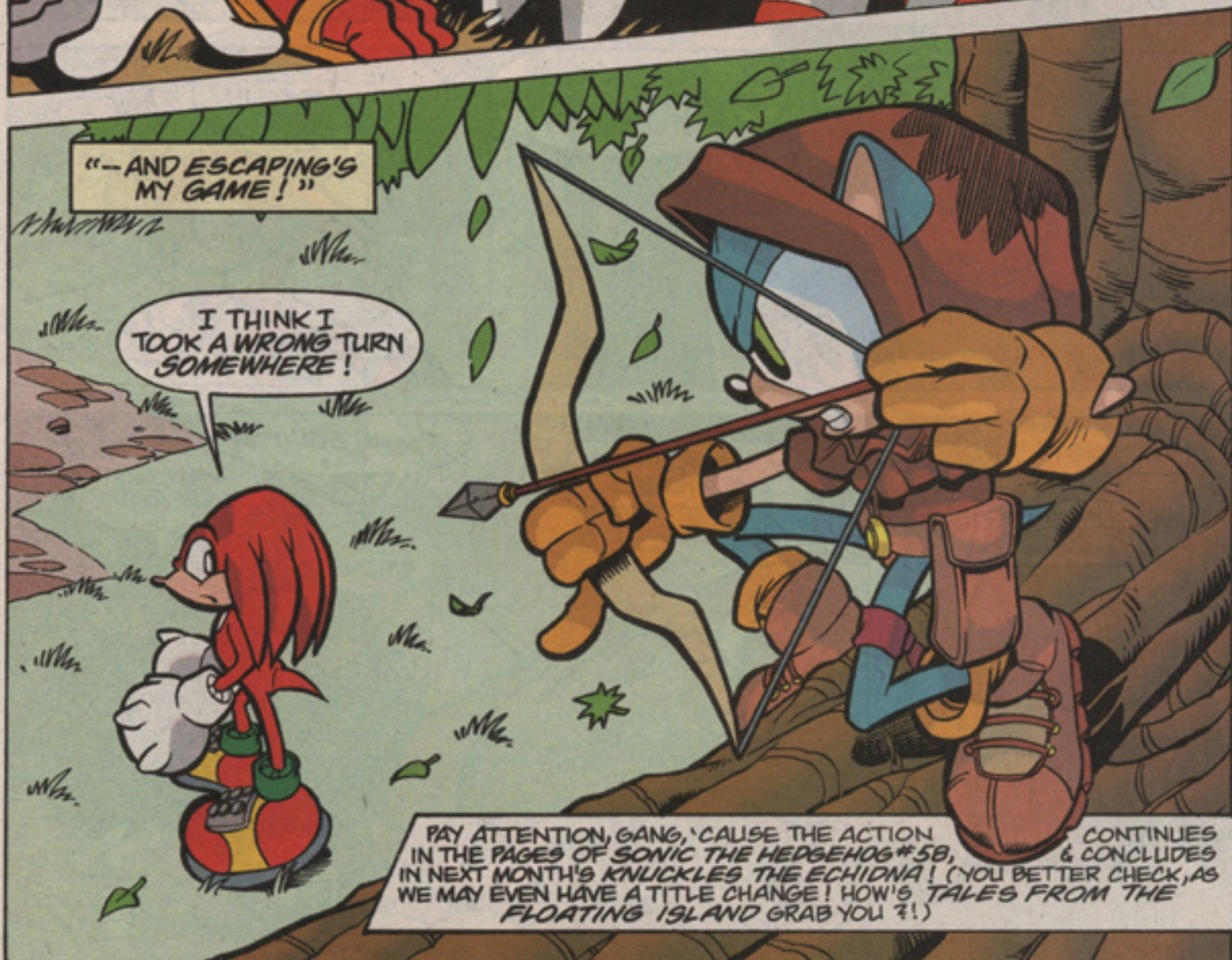
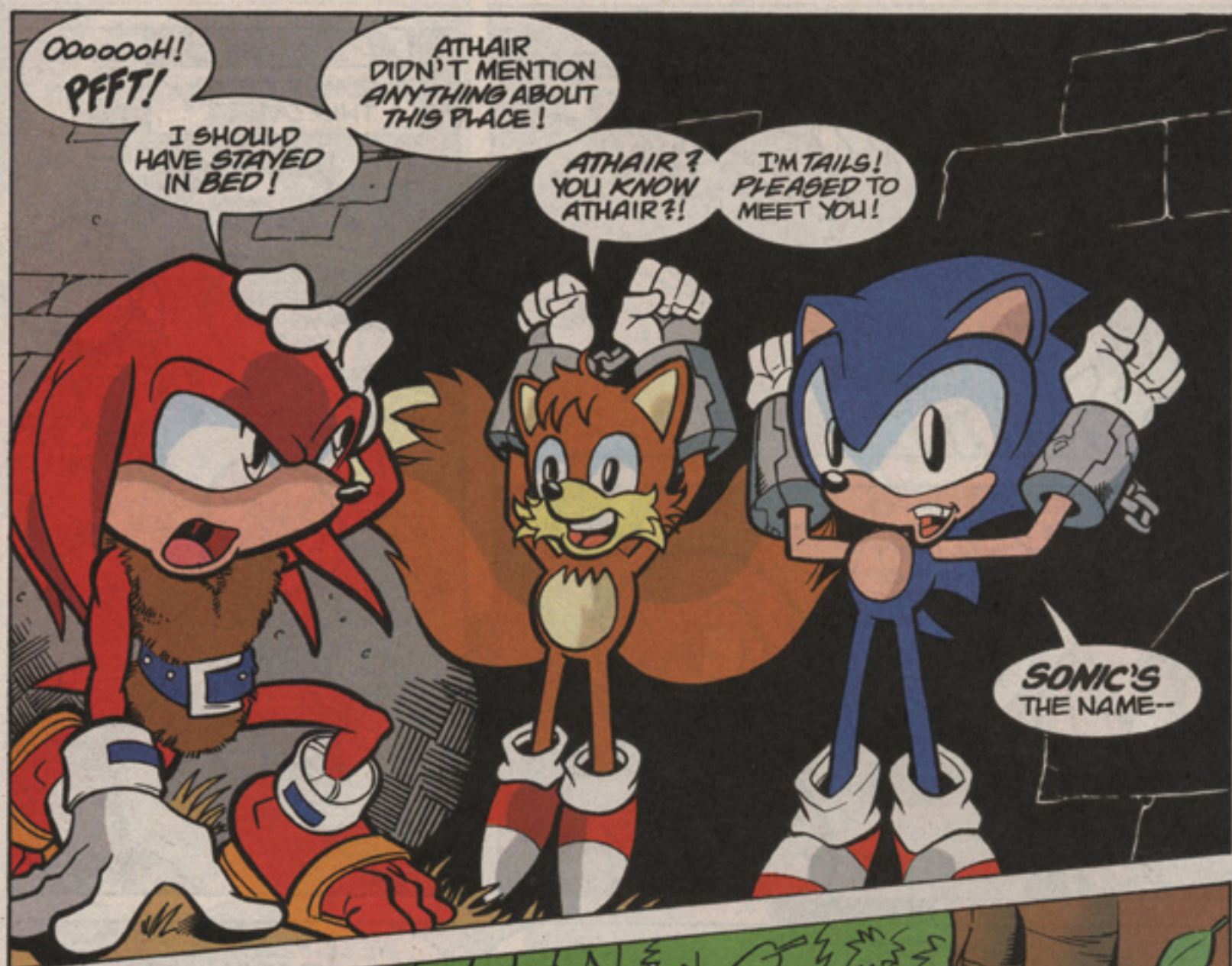














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IN TWO WEEKS: LEARN HOW SONIC AND TAILS ENDED UP IN THE DUNGEONS OF THE HIGH SHERIFF'S CASTLE?

FIND OUT WHO THE MYSTERIOUS HEDGEHOG AIMING AT KNUCKLES IS? ALL THIS IN A STORY THAT COULD ONLY BE CALLED "FRIENDLY ROGUES AND FOUL VILLAINS," THIS STORYLINE PICKS UP FROM THE END OF THIS ISSUE AND CONTINUES INTO KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #12. WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS. ART BY ART MAWHINNEY AND KEN PENDERS. COVER BY SPAZ, HARVO AND HEROIC AGE! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #58 ON SALE LATE FEBRUARY 1998!

NEXT MONTH: AT LAST! THE EPIC CONCLUSION TO THE "FORGOTTEN TRIBE" STORYLINE! IT PICKS UP FROM THE PAGES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #58 AND ENDS WITH SOME STARTLING REVELATIONS ABOUT THE ECHIDNA RACE. THIS STORY IS BROUGHT TO YOU FROM OUR REGULAR KNUCKLES TEAM OF KEN PENDERS, MANNY GALAN AND ANDREW PEPOY. COVER BY SPAZ, PENDERS AND HEROIC AGE! KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #12 ON SALE MARCH 1998!

CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

FREDDY

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SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG #58
ON SALE FEBRUARY 1998



KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA #12
ON SALE MARCH 1998



NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF EMAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ.

**THANKS FOR
UNDERSTANDING**

DEAR KNUCKLES,
I LOVE YOUR NEW BOOK! I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU: 1) I MISSED KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4, I CANNOT GET IT IN STORES AND I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE. IS THERE ANYWAY I CAN GET IT? 2) HOW DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO YOUR COMIC BOOK? 3) IS JULIE-SU A CYBORG?

LISA WHEELER (AGE 16)
GOBLES, MI

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED THAT, LISA. TAKE A LOOK AT THE LAST PAGE OF THIS BOOK FOR THE ANSWER TO YOUR LAST TWO QUESTIONS. FOR YOUR THIRD QUESTION, YOUR ANSWER IS MOSTLY CORRECT. JULIE-SU ISN'T SO MUCH A CYBORG ECHIDNA AS SHE IS AN ECHIDNA WITH CYBERNETIC ATTACHMENTS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER DARK LEGIONAIRES THAT DEFINITELY QUALIFY. I THINK THE MORE "HARDWARE" ONE HAS ON THEIR BODY, THE MORE ONE CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS A CYBORG.

DEAR KNUCKEY,

I THINK YOU ARE THE COOLEST! I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #5 IS THE ONLY KNUCKLES COMIC BOOK I EVER READ, BUT I EAGERLY AWAIT ISSUE #6. I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU: 1) HOW OLD ARE YOU? 2) HOW OLD IS JULIE-SU? 3) IS JULIE-SU GOING TO BE (-GULP- NOW FOR THE BIGGIE!) YOUR NEMESIS, FRIEND OR (-GULP- AGAIN!) GIRLFRIEND? I HOPE I WASN'T GETTING TOO PERSONAL WITH THAT LAST QUESTION? WELL, UNTIL NEXT TIME! CONNOR JOSEY
HALIFAX, NS
CANADA

I AM FIFTEEN YEARS OLD. I THINK JULIE-SU IS ABOUT MY AGE BUT I NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK. CONNOR, AS FAR AS JULIE-SU'S RELATIONSHIP TO ME IS CONCERNED, I CAN ONLY SAY "TIME WILL TELL!"

DEAR KNUCKLES,

I'VE JUST BOUGHT ISSUE #5 OF YOUR SERIES AND I THINK YOUR COMICS ARE THE COOLEST!!! WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD, I KNEW THERE WERE SONIC COMICS AROUND BUT I NEVER FOUND ANY UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG. 1) WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR GLOVES? 2) WILL YOU EVER BE BEST FRIENDS WITH SONIC? 3) WHO IS THE MOST DANGEROUS VILLAIN YOU'VE FOUGHT?

PHILLIP "PHIL MASTER" MUDD (AGE 9)
LOUISVILLE, KY

NO, PHILLIP, YOU ARE THE COOLEST. AND SO IS EVERYONE THAT READS MY BOOK! 1) MY DAD GAVE THEM TO ME. 2) ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN LIFE. 3) DEFINITELY ENERJAK. BUT I HAVE TO SAY, MAMMOTH MOGUL BECAME JUST AS DANGEROUS (IF NOT MORE) WHEN HE STOLE ENERJAK'S POWER.



YO KNUX,

I JUST GOT THE FIFTH ISSUE IN YOUR NEW SERIES. I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS, OF COURSE: 1) WHAT DO THE CHAOTIX DO WHILE YOU'RE IN ECHIDNAOPOLIS? 2) IS JULIE-SU HALF ROBOT? IF NOT, THEN WHAT IS THAT STUFF IN HER DREADLOCKS AND ON HER ARMS? SEE YA ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

BILLY "STARBURNER" MALCOM
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1) THE CHAOTIX WERE LOOKING AFTER THE REST OF THE FLOATING ISLAND WHILE I WAS AT ECHIDNAOPOLIS. SOMETIMES THEY GO BACK HOME SINCE THEIR FAMILIES STILL LIVE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND. 2) YES AND NO. JULIE-SU CAME FROM THE DARK LEGION OF ECHIDNAS WHO USE CYBERNETIC IMPLANTS FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. SOME TO ENHANCE VISION OR HEARING. OTHERS TO REPLACE DAMAGED BODY PARTS RATHER THAN HEAL THEM. IT'S JUST THEIR WAY. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT LIKE WHEN BUNNIE WAS HALF-ROBOTICIZED SINCE HER LEGS WEREN'T BUILT AND PUT ON BUT WERE INSTEAD TRANSFORMED FROM FLESH AND BLOOD.

DEAR KNUCKLES,

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR NEW SERIES. IT GIVES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO SOLO AND LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT YOUR HERITAGE AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO WATCH OVER THE FLOATING ISLAND FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. WHEREAS WITH SONIC, HE JUST RUNS AROUND AT FULL SPEED, NOT CARING WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS (LIKE A TREE IF HE'S NOT LOOKING... HEE, HEE). ANY IDEA AS TO HOW MIGHTY KNOWS SONIC? HAVE ANY OF THE GUARDIANS BEEN FEMALE?

SCOTT MORAN
(A.K.A.SOXERBOXER@AOL.COM)

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT. IT SEEMS I HAVE SOMETHING NEW TO LEARN EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND. DON'T BE TOO HARD ON SONIC. HE HAS HIS WAY OF DEALING WITH STRESS AND I HAVE MINE. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY MET BUT I'M SURE WE'LL FIND OUT ONE DAY WHEN MIGHTY IS READY TO TALK. AS FAR AS FEMALE GUARDIANS GO, I KNOW NOW THAT ATHAIR'S MOTHER WAS A GUARDIAN.

SO UNTIL NEXT MONTH, STAY COOL!



